Geoffrey Chaucer

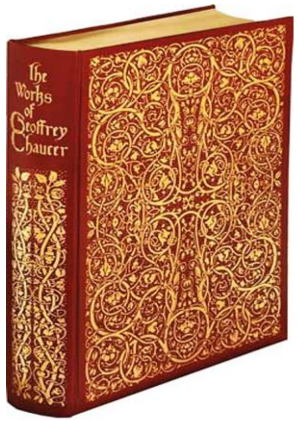
The Canterbury Tales. Povestirile din Canterbury.
The General Prologue. Prologul.

Translated into Romanian by
Dan Duțescu

**Parallel Texts:
Middle English, Modern English and Romanian**

...first he wrought and afterwards he taught
[Prologue to *Canterbury Tales*, line 499]





Edited by
George Sandulescu
and
Lidia Vianu

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Press Release Tuesday 1 March 2016

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales. Povestirile din Canterbury.

The General Prologue. Prologul.

ISBN 978-606-8592-43-5

The Miller's Tale. Povestirea Morarului.

ISBN 978-606-760-042-1

Translated into Romanian by **Dan Duțescu**.
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We are publishing Chaucer for two reasons. One reason is a literary one; the other one is more technical in character.

Chaucer is the first English writer. As his writing is hundreds of years older than

Publicăm aceste două volume de Chaucer din două motive. Unul este literar, celălalt este mai degrabă de natură tehnică.

Chaucer a fost primul scriitor englez. Întrucât opera lui este cu sute de ani mai veche decât a lui

Shakespeare's, it is not very easy to read. But it deserves it more than one expects. Try it, and you will see.

The more technical reason is the translator. It is difficult to find somebody who would undertake this task. Well, Dan Duțescu, Levițchi's equal and friend, set himself the task of translating the whole of Geoffrey Chaucer, who lived between 1340 and 1400.

When you start reading it, you will be surprised how easy and casual it is. And pleasant. And instructive. We are not asking you to read the **whole** of Chaucer. We only propose to you the most celebrated fragments. Try to read them, and you will see that you will not put the book down. At times, it will remind you of Boccaccio.

We wish you good reading of the whole of Chaucer.

1 March 2016

Shakespeare, ea nu este uşor de citit. Merită, însă, a fi citită—mai mult decât ne-am aştepta. Încercați şi vă veți convinge.

Motivul tehnic al publicării acestor două volume este traducătorul. Nu oricine s-ar fi încumetat să se apuce. Ei bine, Dan Duțescu, prietenul şi colegul lui Leon Levițchi, şi-a asumat sarcina de a traduce în întregime opera lui Geoffrey Chaucer—scriitor care a trăit între anii 1340 şi 1400.

Atunci când vă veți apuca să-l citiți, vă va surprinde cât de accesibil şi relaxat scrie. Şi cât de plăcut. Și instructiv în acelaşi timp. Nu vă supunem atenției **toată** opera lui Chaucer. Am ales cele mai cunoscute fragmente. Citiți-le şi veți vedea că nu veți putea lăsa cartea din mână. Pe alocuri, ea vă va duce cu gândul la Boccaccio.

Vă dorim să citiți cu plăcere tot ceea ce a scris Geoffrey Chaucer.

George Sandulescu and Lidia Vianu

Geoffrey Chaucer

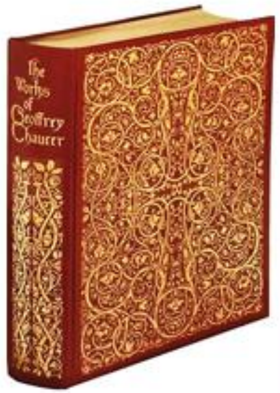
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Lidia Vianu
Director

George Sandulescu
Executive Advisor

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Holograph list of the 40 languages used by James Joyce in writing *Finnegans Wake*

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Here bygynneth the book of the tales of Cau

Whan that Aueryll wt his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed euery veyne in swich lycour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour
Whan zephirus eek wt his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in euery holt and heeth
The tendre croppes and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his half cours yronne
And smale foweles maken melodye
That slepen al the nyght with open Iye
So priketh hem nature in hir corages



Geoffrey Chaucer
The Canterbury Tales. Povestirile din Canterbury.
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Parallel Texts.
1



Here bygynneth the Book of the tales of Caunterbury

Here begins the Book of the Tales of Canterbury

Prologul

Traducere în limba română:

Dan Duțescu

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1: Whan that aprill with his shoures soote	When April with his showers sweet with fruit	La vremea când Prier[1] cu dulci șuroaie
2: The droghte of march hath perced to the roote,	The drought of March has pierced unto the root	Până-n rărunchi pământul îl înmoaie
3: And bathed every veyne in swich licour	And bathed each vein with liquor that has power	Şi scaldă tot ce-i lujer în licoarea
4: Of which vertu engendred is the flour;	To generate therein and sire the flower;	Din care prinde vlagă nouă floarea;
5: Whan zephirus eek with his sweete	When Zephyr also has, with his sweet	Când și Zefir cu-nmiresmata-i boare

[1] **Prier**: luna aprilie.

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breeth	breath,	
6: Inspired hath in every holt and heeth	Quickened again, in every holt and heath,	A-nsuflețit prin crânguri și ponoare
7: Tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne	The tender shoots and buds, and the young sun	Mlădițe moi, iar soarele-l petrece[2]
8: Hath in the ram his halve cours yronne,	Into the Ram one half his course has run,	În ultima lui goană pe Berbece;
9: And smale foweles maken melodye,	And many little birds make melody	Când păsări nalță cântec în desiș,
10: That slepen al the nyght with open ye	That sleep through all the night with open eye	Iar noaptea dorm cu ochii mari deschiși
11: (so priketh hem nature in hir corages);	(So Nature pricks them on to ramp and rage)	—De-atât fior li-i inima năucă—
12: Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,	Then do folk long to go on pilgrimage,	Atuncea prind hagiii[3] dor de ducă,

[2] **soarele-l petrece...pe Berbece**: soarele intră în constelația Berbecului la 12 martie și iese din ea puțin înainte de jumătatea lui aprilie; aci *ultima goană* se referă la a doua jumătate, lucru confirmat de *Precuvântarea la Povestirea Notarului*, unde Ch. dă cu precizie data de 18 aprilie, calculată a fi cea de a doua zi a pelerinajului.

[3] **hagiii:** pelerinii.

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13: And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,	And palmers to go seeking out strange strands,	Iar pălmierii[4] află-ndemn să cate
14: To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;	To distant shrines well known in sundry lands.	Altare pe meleaguri depărtate;
15: And specially from every shires ende	And specially from every shire's end	Dar mai cu sârg de pe britane plaiuri
16: Of engelond to caunterbury they wende,	Of England they to Canterbury wend,	Spre Canterbury se îndrum alaiuri
17: The hooly blisful martir for to seke,	The holy blessed martyr there to seek	La mucenicul[5] tămăduitor
18: That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.	Who helped them when they lay so ill and weal.	Ce-mparte celor bólnavi ajutor.
19: Bifil that in that seson on a day,	Befell that, in that season, on a day	Și s-a făcut ca-n vremea cea din an,

[4] **pălmierii** (în orig. *palmers*): se deosebeau de pelerinii obișnuiți prin aceea că mergeau până la Ierusalim sau cel puțin până la Roma, aducând de acolo un ram de palmier; de unde și numele lor.

[5] **mucenicul**: Thomas à Becket, arhiepiscop de Canterbury, partizan al papei și adversar al lui Henric al II-lea, asasinat în 1170 de către cavalerii regelui. A fost trecut în rândul sfinților trei ani mai târziu. Canterbury a servit timp de multe secole ca loc de pelerinaj.

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20: In southwerk at the tabard as I lay	In Southwark, at the Tabard, as I lay	Cum poposeam în Southwark[6] la un han,
21: Redy to wenden on my pilgrymage	Ready to start upon my pilgrimage	La Tabard[7], eu, cu foc pios în piept
22: To caunterbury with ful devout corage,	To Canterbury, full of devout homage,	Spre Canterbury pașii să-mi îndrept,
23: At nyght was come into that hostelrye	There came at nightfall to that hostelry	Au mas să steie-acolo până-n zi
24: Wel nyne and twenty in a compaignye,	Some nine and twenty in a company	Drept douăzeci și nouă de hagii,
25: Of sondry folk, by aventure yfalle	Of sundry persons who had chanced to fall	Drumeți de mai tot soiul—prost sau bun—
26: In felaweshipe, and pilgrimes were they alle,	In fellowship, and pilgrims were they all	Ce fost-au să se-ntâmple soți de drum
27: That toward caunterbury wolden ryde.	That toward Canterbury town would ride.	Spre-acela de minuni sunt făcătorul.
28: The chambres and the stables weren wyde,	The rooms and stables spacious were and wide,	Adânci erau cămările, pridvorul

[6] **Southwark:** o mahala a vechii Londre, prin care trecea drumul spre Canterbury.

[7] **Tabard:** numele unui han, care a existat pe vremea lui Ch. în mahalaua Southwark. Emblema hanului era un *tabard*, tunică scurtă, fără mâneci, brodată cu armuri și purtată îndeobște de crainici.

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29: And wel we weren esed atte beste.	And well we there were eased, and of the best.	Și grajdul, tot, de ne-a tihnit popasul.
30: And shortly, whan the sonne was to reste,	And briefly, when the sun had gone to rest,	Pe scurt, de cum bătu de noapte ceasul,
31: So hadde I spoken with hem everichon	So had I spoken with them, every one,	Atâta de plăcut șezum la sfat
32: That I was of hir felaweshipe anon,	That I was of their fellowship anon,	Că m-au primit în sânul lor de-ndat’,
33: And made forward erly for to ryse,	And made agreement that we’d early rise	Și-am hotărât să ne urnim din zori
34: To take oure wey ther as I yow devyse.	To take the road, as you I will apprise.	Spre sfânt lăcașul cela, călători.
35: But nathelees, whil I have tyme and space,	But none the less, whilst I have time and space,	Găsesc a fi cu cale într-acestea,
36: Er that I ferther in this tale pace,	Before yet farther in this tale I pace,	Cât nu purced la vale cu povestea,
37: Me thynketh it acordaunt to resoun	It seems to me accordant with reason	Să spun de fiecare un cuvânt,
38: To telle yow al the condicioun	To inform you of the state of every one	Spre-a vi-i înfățișa așa cum sunt,
39: Of ech of hem, so as it semed me,	Of all of these, as it appeared to me,	Așa cum se iviră-n ochii mei,
40: And whiche they weren, and of what degree,	And who they were, and what was their degree,	Ce hram purtau, și ce era de ei,

41: And eek in what array that they were inne;	And even how arrayed there at the inn;	Și încă-n ce veșminte i-am văzut.
42: And at a knyght than wol I first bigynne.	And with a knight thus will I first begin.	Îl iau pe Cavaler de început.
	The Knight	**Cavalerul**
		
43: A knyght ther was, and that a worthy man,	A knight there was, and he a worthy man,	Un CAVALER era, un om de bine.
44: That fro the tyme that he first bigan	Who, from the moment that he first began	De când s-a fost pornit prin țări străine





45: To riden out, he loved chivalrie,	To ride about the world, loved chivalry,	El foarte a-ndrăgit cavaleria,
46: Trouthe and honour, fredom and curteisie.	Truth, honour, freedom and all courtesy.	Dreptatea, dărnicia curtenia.
47: Ful worthy was he in his lordes werre,	Full worthy was he in his liege-lord's war,	Luptat-a pentru domn fără de pată;
48: And therto hadde he riden, no man ferre,	And therein had he ridden (none more far)	De toți era virtutea-i lăudată,
49: As wel in cristendom as in hethenesse,	As well in Christendom as heathenesse,	Și mult a colindat, ca altul nime'
50: And evere honoured for his worthynesse.	And honoured everywhere for worthiness.	Între creștini, dar și prin păgânime.
51: At alisaundre he was whan it was wonne.	At Alexandria, he, when it was won;	Bătu-n Alecsăndría[8] de-a căzut;
52: Ful ofte tyme he hadde the bord bigonne	Full oft the table's roster he'd begun	Ades în fruntea mesii a șezut
53: Aboven alle nacions in pruce;	Above all nations' knights in Prussia.	Naintea altor neamuri în Prusía[9];

---

[8] **Alecsăndría**: Alexandria, cucerită în 1365 de Pierre de Lusignan, regele Ciprului.

[9] **în Prusía**: adică în slujba cavalerilor teutoni.

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54: In lettow hadde he reysed and in ruce,	In Latvia raided he, and Russia,	Și la Litveni[10] luptat-a, și-n Rusía,
55: No cristen man so ofte of his degree.	No christened man so oft of his degree.	Ca el creștin de vază nimeni altul;
56: In gernade at the seege eek hadde he be	In far Granada at the siege was he	Era-n Granada când au dat asaltul
57: Of algezir, and riden in belmarye.	Of Algeciras, and in Belmarie.	La Algezir[11], și-a fost în Belmaria[12];
58: At lyeys was he and at satalye,	At Ayas was he and at Satalye	La Lyeys mai fost-a el și Satalía[13]
59: Whan they were wonne; and in the	When they were won; and on the Middle	Când le-au luat; și iar, pe Marea Mare[14],

---

[10] **Litveni**: lituanieni.

[11] **Algezir**: oraș situat în regatul maur Granada, în fața Gibraltarului, și cucerit din mâinile maurilor în 1344 de Alfons al XI-lea al Spaniei. A fost dovedită prezența cavalerilor englezi în campaniile menționate în acest pasaj.

[12] **Belmaría**: regat maur din Africa.

[13] **Lyeys (Ayas)**: oraș în Armenia, și Satalía (Adalia sau Atalia), oraș din Asia Mică, cucerite tot de Pierre de Lusignan (Cf. *Prolog*, 8, cel de-al doilea în 1361, iar cel dintâi în 1367.

[14] **Marea Mare**: vechiul nume al Mării Mediterane.

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grete see	Sea	
60: At many a noble armee hadde he be.	At many a noble meeting chanced to be.	Tot printre lănci și coifuri lucitoare.
61: At mortal batailles hadde he been fiftene,	Of mortal battles he had fought fifteen,	Bătu războaie crunte cincisprezece;
62: And foughten for oure feith at tramyssene	And he'd fought for our faith at Tramissene	La Tramisen[15] luptat-a pentru lege[16];
63: In lystes thries, and ay slayn his foo.	Three times in lists, and each time slain his foe.	În trei turnire[17] tot biruitor
64: This ilke worthy knyght hadde been also	This self-same worthy knight had been also	Alesu-s-a; și-a mai oștit cu spor,
65: Somtyme with the lord of palatye	At one time with the lord of Palatye	O vreme, lâng-un crai din Palatía[18],

[15] **Tramisen**: regat maur în regiunea Marocului de azi.

[16] **lege**: credință.

[17] **turnire**: întreceri cavalerești în arme.

[18] **Palatía**: principat creștin în Anatolia.





66: Agayn another hethen in turkye.	Against another heathen in Turkey:	De-au risipit păgânii în Turcía.
67: And everemoore he hadde a sovereyn prys;	And always won he sovereign fame for prize.	De faima lui și pruncii luau aminte;
68: And though that he were worthy, he was wys,	Though so illustrious, he was very wise	Viteaz era, dar și-nțelept la minte,
69: And of his port as meeke as is a mayde.	And bore himself as meekly as a maid.	Și galeș în purtări ca o fecioară;
70: He nevere yet no vileynye ne sayde	He never yet had any vileness said,	N-ar fi rostit o vorbă de ocară
71: In al his lyf unto no maner wight.	In all his life, to whatsoever wight.	Sau altcum orișicui să-i fi greșit:
72: He was a verray, parfit gentil knyght.	He was a truly perfect, gentle knight.	Un cavaler, mă rog, desăvârșit.
73: But, for to tellen yow of his array,	But now, to tell you all of his array,	De-nfățișarea sa ce pot a spune?
74: His hors were goode, but he was nat gay.	His steeds were good, but yet he was not gay.	Buni cai avea, dar straie nu prea bune.
75: Of fustian he wered a gypon	Of simple fustian wore he a jupon	Era pieptarul negru-al dumisale
76: Al bismotered with his habergeon,	Sadly discoloured by his habergeon;	Soit de spre rugina celor zale,
77: For he was late ycome from his viage,	For he had lately come from his voyage	Căci doar ce poposi din țări streine
78: And wente for to doon his pilgrymage.	And now was going on this pilgrimage.	Că și porni hagiu, să se închine.

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The Squire's Portrait	**The Squire**	**Scutierul**
		
79: With hym ther was his sone, a yong squier,	With him there was his son, a youthful squire,	Apoi fecior-său, june SCUTIER,
80: A lovyere and a lusty bacheler,	A lover and a lusty bachelor,	Iubeț și ucenic de cavaler,
81: With lokkes crulle as they were leyd in presse.	With locks well curled, as if they'd laid in press.	Cu părul cârlionți ca scos din fiare;
82: Of twenty yeer of age he was, I gesse.	Some twenty years of age he was, I guess.	Vreo douăzeci de ani avea, îmi pare.
83: Of his stature he was of evene lengthe,	In stature he was of an average length,	De stat, nici hăț prea nalt, dar nici prea mic,

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84: And wonderly delyvere, and of greet strengthe.	Wondrously active, aye, and great of strength.	Sprințar nevoie mare, și voinic.
85: And he hadde been somtyme in chyvachie	He'd ridden sometime with the cavalry	O vreme colindat-a tot în șa
86: In flaundres, in artoys, and pycardie,	In Flanders, in Artois, and Picardy,	Prin Flandra și Picardia și-Artois[19],
87: And born hym weel, as of so litel space,	And borne him well within that little space	Și vrednic s-a purtat—în scurt răgaz—
88: In hope to stonden in his lady grace.	In hope to win thereby his lady's grace.	Cu gând să crească-n ochii dragei breaz.
89: Embrouded was he, as it were a meede	Prinked out he was, as if he were a mead,	Vedeai pe fața lui, ca pe-o altiță,
90: Al ful of fresshe floures, whyte and reede.	All full of fresh-cut flowers white and red.	Și dalb de crin, și roș de garofiță.
91: Syngynge he was, or floytynge, al the day;	Singing he was, or fluting, all the day;	Din fluier sau din ghiers zicea cu har;
92: He was as fressh as is the month of may.	He was as fresh as is the month of May.	Senin era ca luna lui Florar.
93: Short was his gowne, with sleves	Short was his gown, with sleeves both	Giubeică scurtă-avea, cu mâneci late,

[19] **Prin Flandra etc.**: adică în expediții minore împotriva francezilor.

longe and wyde.	long and wide.	
94: Wel koude he sitte on hors and faire ryde.	Well could be sit on horse, and fairly ride.	Și falnic sta în șa, mai tras spre spate;
95: He koude songes make and wel endite,	He could make songs and words thereto indite,	În toate-i era fapta celibie;
96: Juste and eek daunce, and weel purtreye and write.	Joust, and dance too, as well as sketch and write.	Știa danța și zugrăvi și scrie.
97: So hoote he lovede that by nyghtertale.	So hot he loved that, while night told her tale,	De noapte nu dormea el mai de loc
98: He sleep namoore than dooth a nyghtyngale.	He slept no more than does a nightingale.	Atâta ce iubea, cu-atâta foc.
99: Curteis he was, lowely, and servysable,	Courteous he, and humble, willing and able,	Sfios era și cu purtare-aleasă,
100: And carf biforn his fader at the table.	And carved before his father at the table.	Și lui tătân-său îi tăia la masă

The Yeoman's Portrait

101: A yeman hadde he and servantz namo

The Yeoman



A yeoman had he, nor more servants, no,

Arcaşul

Avea și un ARCAȘ[20], și nimeni mai,

[20] **Avea și un arcaș**... Ch. se referă tot la Cavaler.

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102: At that tyme, for hym liste ride so,	At that time, for he chose to travel so;	Căci nu-i plăcea la drum mai mult alai.
103: And he was clad in cote and hood of grene.	And he was clad in coat and hood of green.	Purta acesta verde strai cu glugă
104: A sheef of pecok arwes, bright and kene,	A sheaf of peacock arrows bright and keen	Și, prins la brâu, ținea cinstita slugă
105: Under his belt he bar ful thriftily,	Under his belt he bore right carefully	Snop de săgeți cu pene de păun
106: (wel koude he dresse his takel yemanly:	(Well could he keep his tackle yeomanly:	Și vârful-fir, ca acul cela bun—
107: His arwes drouped noght with fetheres lowe)	His arrows had no draggled feathers low),	—Ci n-avea una penele pleoștite—
108: And in his hand he baar a myghty bowe.	And in his hand he bore a mighty bow.	Și arc[21] ducea în mână, cogeamite.
109: A not heed hadde he, with a broun visage.	A cropped head had he and a sun-browned face.	Tuns miriște, cu fața arămie,
110: Of wodecraft wel koude he al the	Of woodcraft knew he all the useful ways.	El toate-a codrului părea că știe.

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[21] **Și arc etc.**: arcurile arcașilor aveau o lungime pînă la 2 m. și erau confecționate din lemn de tisă.

usage.		
111: Upon his arm he baar a gay bracer,	Upon his arm he bore a bracer gay,	Purta la braț brățară greu lucrată[22];
112: And by his syde a swerd and a bokeler,	And at one side a sword and buckler, yea,	La șold îi dăngăneau un scut[23]și-o spată
113: And on that oother syde a gay daggere	And at the other side a dagger bright,	Și-n partea dimpotrivă junghi frumos,
114: Harneised wel and sharp as point of spere;	Well sheathed and sharp as spear point in the light;	Bine-nhămat și strașnic de tăios.
115: A cristopher on his brest of silver sheene	On breast a Christopher of silver sheen.	Pe piept îi strălucea Cristof[24] de-argint,
116: An horn he bar, the bawdryk was of grene;	He bore a horn in baldric all of green;	Și-avea și corn cu coadă verde-mint.
117: A forster was he, soothly, as I gesse.	A forester he truly was, I guess.	Era, bag seamă, pădurean sadea.

[22] **Purta la braț etc.**: brățara era purtată pe antebrațul stâng și îl ferea pe arcaș de bătaia corzii arcului.

[23] **scut** (în orig. *bokeler)*: era rotund, de mărimea unei farfurii, și se purta atârnat de mânerul spadei.

[24] **Cristof**: iconițe ale sfinților erau purtate ca talisman. Sfântul Cristofor era patronul pădurenilor.

The Prioress' Portrait

118: Ther was also a nonne, a prioresse,
119: That of hir smylyng was ful symple and coy;

The Prioress



There was also a nun, a prioress,
Who, in her smiling, modest was and coy;

Stareța

Ș-apoi o maică STAREȚĂ era.
Sfios zâmbea ea pururi, cu sfinție,





120: Hire gretteste ooth was but by seinte loy;	Her greatest oath was but "By Saint Eloy!"	Și nu jura decât pe Sânt Elíe[25];
121: And she was cleped madame eglentyne.	And she was known as Madam Eglantine.	Cânta la slujbe dumneaei – minune...
122: Ful weel she soong the service dyvyne,	Full well she sang the services divine,	Cucernic ce știa pe nas să-ngâne
123: Entuned in hir nose ful semely,	Intoning through her nose, becomingly;	Măicuța Eglantina. Și-apoi, încă,
124: And frenssh she spak ful faire and fetisly,	And fair she spoke her French, and fluently,	Grăia simandicos pre limba frâncă[26],
125: After the scole of stratford atte bowe,	After the school of Stratford-at-the-Bow,	Cum o-nvățau la Stratford[27] cu dichis
126: For frenssh of parys was to hire unknowe.	For French of Paris was not hers to know.	Căci nu știa frânceasca din Paris.

[25] **Sânt Elie** (în orig. *Saint Loy)*: potrivit legendei, sfântul Elegius a refuzat să jure, într-o împrejurare când regele Dagobert i-a cerut aceasta. Pollard, unul dintre comentatorii lui Ch., presupune că în acest vers autorul a vrut să spună că stareța jura întocmai ca sfântul, adică nu jura în nici un fel.

[26] **limba frâncă**: limba franceză.

[27] **Stratford**: e vorba de mânăstirea benedictină de la Stratford-le-Bow, întemeiată pe vremea lui Wilhelm Cuceritorul, unde se vorbea încă franceza anglo-normandă.

127: At mete wel ytaught was she with alle:	At table she had been well taught withal,	La mese-avea aleasă-apucătură:
128: She leet no morsel from hir lippes falle,	And never from her lips let morsels fall,	N-ar fi scăpat un dumicat din gură
129: Ne wette hir fyngres in hir sauce depe;	Nor dipped her fingers deep in sauce, but ate	Și nu-ntingea adânc cu deștu-n zeamă;
130: Wel koude she carie a morsel and wel kepe	With so much care the food upon her plate	Iar când ducea sub nas, băga de seamă
131: That no drope ne fille upon hire brest.	That never driblet fell upon her breast.	Un strop să nu cumva pe piept să-i pice.
132: In curteisie was set ful muchel hir lest.	In courtesy she had delight and zest.	Purtarea-aleasă o făcea ferice.
133: Hir over-lippe wyped she so clene	Her upper lip was always wiped so clean	Pe buze se ștergea așa de tare
134: That in hir coppe ther was no ferthyng sene	That in her cup was no iota seen	De nu lăsa nici umbră de unsoare
135: Of grece, whan she dronken hadde hir draughte.	Of grease, when she had drunk her draught of wine.	În băutura din potir, când bea;
136: Ful semely after hir mete she raughte.	Becomingly she reached for meat to dine.	Și gingaș din bucate ciugulea.





137: And sikerly she was of greet desport,	And certainly delighting in good sport,	Alene cunoștea să se compoarte,
138: And ful plesaunt, and amyable of port,	She was right pleasant, amiable- in short.	Cu farmec mult și cu mișcări învoalte.
139: And peyned hire to countrefete cheere	She was at pains to counterfeit the look	Se străduia măicuța să <imite>
140: Of court, and to been estatlich of manere,	Of courtliness, and stately manners took,	De pe la curte fețele cinstite
141: And to ben holden digne of reverence.	And would be held worthy of reverence.	Ca toți să-i dovedească plecăciune.
142: But, for to speken of hire conscience,	But, to say something of her moral sense,	De firea ei vorbind, putem a spune
143: She was so charitable and so pitous	She was so charitable and piteous	Că mult era miloasă dumneaei:
144: She wolde wepe, if that she saugh a mous	That she would weep if she but saw a mouse	Să fi văzut un șoarec mort, alei!
145: Kaught in a trappe, if it were deed or bledde.	Caught in a trap, though it were dead or bled.	Sau sângerat în cursă, păi bocea...
146: Of smale houndes hadde she that she fedde	She had some little dogs, too, that she fed	Și-avea căței o droaie de-i hrănea
147: With rosted flessh, or milk and	On roasted flesh, or milk and fine white	Cu lapte și colac și cu pârjoală.

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wastel-breed.	bread.	
148: But soore wepte she if oon of hem were deed,	But sore she'd weep if one of them were dead,	Cum mai plângea dacă-i murea de boală
149: Or if men smoot it with a yerde smerte;	Or if men smote it with a rod to smart:	Vreun dolofan, sau de-l croiai cu-o joardă...
150: And al was conscience and tendre herte.	For pity ruled her, and her tender heart.	Atât era la inimă de caldă.
151: Ful semyly hir wympul pynched was,	Right decorous her pleated wimple was;	Purta un comănac legat cu fald,
152: Hir nose tretys, hir eyen greye as glas,	Her nose was fine; her eyes were blue as glass;	Năsuc alung și ochii de smarald,
153: Hir mouth ful smal, and therto softe and reed;	Her mouth was small and therewith soft and red;	Iar gura — cum îi fraga pârguită.
154: But sikerly she hadde a fair forheed;	But certainly she had a fair forehead;	Și ce mai frunte! Naltă și boltită,
155: It was almoost a spanne brood, I trowe;	It was almost a full span broad, I own,	De-o șchioapă să fi fost, de nu mă-nșel,
156: For, hardily, she was nat undergrowe.	For, truth to tell, she was not undergrown.	Căci pirpirie n-arăta de fel.
157: Ful fetys was hir cloke, as I was war.	Neat was her cloak, as I was well aware.	Frumos ce-i sta cernitul ei mintean!

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158: Of smal coral aboute hire arm she bar	Of coral small about her arm she'd bear	Pe braț purta mătănii de mărgean
159: A peire of bedes, gauded al with grene,	A string of beads and gauded all with green;	Și de hurmuz ca strugurele-n soare,
160: And theron heng a brooch of gold ful sheene,	And therefrom hung a brooch of golden sheen	Și cu pafta de aur lucitoare;
161: On which ther was first write a crowned a,	Whereon there was first written a crowned "A,"	Un *A* încununat sta-nscris pe ea,
162: And after amor vincit omnia.	And under, Amor vincit omnia.	Și-n urmă *Amor vincit omnia*[28].

The Second Nun's Portrait

The Nun



Maica

[28] **Amor vincit omnia**: în original, în latinește: < Iubirea pe toate le învinge. >

163: Another nonne with hire hadde she,	Another little nun with her had she,	O MAICĂ se afla-n alaiul ei,
The Three Priests	**The Three Priests**	**Preuți trei**
		
164: That was hir chapeleyne, and preestes thre.	Who was her chaplain; and of priests she'd three.	Diaconiță-n cin, și PREUȚI TREI.

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The Monk's Portrait

The Monk



Călugăr

165: A monk ther was, a fair for the maistrie,

A monk there was, one made for mastery,

Și iarăși un CĂLUGĂR, om plimbăreț[29],

---

[29] **plimbăreț**: în calitatea sa de delegat eclesiastic (în orig. *outrider)*, călugărul inspecta domeniile aparținând mânăstirii.

166: An outridere, that lovede venerie,	An outrider, who loved his venery;	Isteț, voinic la trup, călcând a stareț.
167: A manly man, to been an abbot able.	A manly man, to be an abbot able.	O patimă avea: vânătorească.
168: Ful many a deyntee hors hadde he in stable,	Full many a blooded horse had he in stable:	Ținea cai mulți, de viță arăbească,
169: And whan he rood, men myghte his brydel heere	And when he rode men might his bridle hear	Și când se-afla călare-n șa, săltând,
170: Gynglen in a whistlynge wynd als cleere	A-jingling in the whistling wind as clear,	Curat mai clincăiau dârlogii-n vânt,
171: And eek as loude as dooth the chapel belle.	Aye, and as loud as does the chapel bell	Strălimpede cum clopotul la schitul
172: Ther as this lord was kepere of the celle,	Where this brave monk was of the cell.	Unde-și avea chilia preasfințitul.
173: The reule of seint maure or of seint beneit,	The rule of Maurus or Saint Benedict,	Canonul lui Sânt Benedictus[30], însă,
174: By cause that it was old and somdel streit	By reason it was old and somewhat strict,	Aflându-l el cu chinga prea rău strânsă,

[30] **Sânt Benedictus**: sfântul Benedict, întemeietorul ordinului călugărilor benedictini (în anul 529).

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175: This ilke monk leet olde thynges pace,	This said monk let such old things slowly pace	Îl slobozea cu-o bortă sau cu două
176: And heeld after the newe world the space.	And followed new-world manners in their place.	Și se ținea în pas cu vremea nouă.
177: He yaf nat of that text a pulled hen,	He cared not for that text a clean-plucked hen	Nu da pe-acei ce păcătoși i-arată
178: That seith that hunters ben nat hooly men,	Which holds that hunters are not holy men;	Pe vânători, o ceapă degerată—
179: Ne that a monk, whan he is recchelees,	Nor that a monk, when he is cloisterless,	Au că monahii fără mânăstire
180: Is likned til a fissh that is waterlees,	Is like unto a fish that's waterless;	Cu peștii pe uscat au semuire:
181: This is to seyn, a monk out of his cloystre.	That is to say, a monk out of his cloister.	Cum ar veni, când sunt plecați din schit.
182: But thilke text heeld he nat worth an	But this same text he held not worth an	Pe-așa cuvânt[31] nu da un hrib pârlit.

[31] **cuvânt**: e vorba de sentența luată din *Decretalul* lui Grațian: <*Sicut pisces sine aqua caret vita, ita sine monasterio monachus.*> (<*După cum peștelui fără apă îi lipsește viața, la fel și monahului fără mânăstire*>)

oystre;	oyster;	
183: And I seyde his opinion was good.	And I said his opinion was right good.	Și zău c-avea dreptate dumnealui:
184: What sholde he studie and make hymselven wood,	What? Should he study as a madman would	De ce s-ajungă el de cap tăhui
185: Upon a book in cloystre alwey to poure,	Upon a book in cloister cell? Or yet	Tot ostenindu-și ochii pe-o hârțoagă
186: Or swynken with his handes, and laboure,	Go labour with his hands and swink and sweat,	Sau tot trudind, ca sluga la dârloagă,
187: As austyn bit? how shal the world be served?	As Austin bids? How shall the world be served?	Cum cere Augustin[32]? Slujire-ar cui?
188: Lat austyn have his swynk to hym reserved!	Let Austin have his toil to him reserved.	Rămână Augustin cu cazna lui!
189: Therfore he was a prikasour aright:	Therefore he was a rider day and night;	Era, cum zic, o dată vânător:
190: Grehoundes he hadde as swift as fowel in flight;	Greyhounds he had, as swift as bird in flight.	Avea ogari, iuți cum e uliu-n zbor,
191: Of prikyng and of huntyng for the	Since riding and the hunting of the hare	Și mult se da în vânt după șoldani,

[32] **Augustin**: sfântul Augustin, autorul unor canoane monahicești, cuprinse în tratatul său, *De Opere Monachorum (Despre lucrările monahilor.)*

hare		
192: Was al his lust, for no cost wolde he spare.	Were all his love, for no cost would he spare.	Făr' a-i păsa de trudă au de bani.
193: I seigh his sleves purfiled at the hond	I saw his sleeves were purfled at the hand	Văzui la el pe mâneci cusătură
194: With grys, and that the fyneste of a lond;	With fur of grey, the finest in the land;	Cu găitan din blană scumpă, sură,
195: And, for to festne his hood under his chyn,	Also, to fasten hood beneath his chin,	Iar spre a-și prinde gluga sub bărbie,
196: He hadde of gold ywroght a ful curious pyn;	He had of good wrought gold a curious pin:	Un bold ce se-ngroșa cu-o gămălie
197: A love-knotte in the gretter ende ther was.	A love-knot in the larger end there was.	Din aur, înnodat ca funta deasă.
198: His heed was balled, that shoon as any glas,	His head was bald and shone like any glass,	Și-avea o pleșuvie prea lucioasă,
199: And eek his face, as he hadde been enoynt.	And smooth as one anointed was his face.	Și-obrazul tot la fel, ca uns cu mir.
200: He was a lord ful fat and in good poynt;	Fat was this lord, he stood in goodly case.	Era plinuț la trup, ca un clondir;

201: His eyen stepe, and rollynge in his heed,	His bulging eyes he rolled about, and hot	Ochi înfocați și jucăuși, măi-măi,
202: That stemed as a forneys of a leed;	They gleamed and red, like fire beneath a pot;	Ca supt ceaun tăciunii cu văpăi;
203: His bootes souple, his hors in greet estaat.	His boots were soft; his horse of great estate.	Ciubote moi și calul arătos.
204: Now certeinly he was a fair prelaat;	Now certainly he was a fine prelate:	Era acel călugăr om frumos
205: He was nat pale as a forpyned goost.	He was not pale as some poor wasted ghost.	Și nu pierit la chip ca o stafie.
206: A fat swan loved he best of any roost.	A fat swan loved he best of any roast.	Din frupturi îndrăgea o grăsulie
207: His palfrey was as broun as is a berye.	His palfrey was as brown as is a berry.	De lebădă. Și-avea un murg ca mura.

The Friar's Portrait	The Friar	Un Frate
		
208: A frere ther was, a wantowne and a merye,	A friar there was, a wanton and a merry,	Și-un FRATE, mare meşter el cu gura,
209: A lymytour, a ful solempne man.	A limiter, a very festive man.	Pantahuzar[33], dar bun și hâtru-ncai.

[33] **Pantahuzar**: am dat acest echivalent pentru cuvântul englez *limitour*, călugăr cerșetor căruia i se desemna un anumit teritoriu pentru exercitarea profesiunii.

210: In alle the ordres foure is noon that kan	In all the Orders Four is none that can	În toate patru cinuri[34] nu aflai
211: So muchel of daliaunce and fair langage.	Equal his gossip and his fair language.	Cu vorbă mai mieroasă alt bărbat
212: He hadde maad ful many a mariage	He had arranged full many a marriage	Ce multe jupânițe-a cununat[35],
213: Of yonge wommen at his owene cost.	Of women young, and this at his own cost.	Tot fragede, cu osteneala sa:
214: Unto his ordre he was a noble post.	Unto his order he was a noble post.	El tagmei sale zdravănă proptea.
215: Ful wel biloved and famulier was he	Well liked by all and intimate was he	Mult îndrăgit era și cunoscut
216: With frankeleyns over al in his contree,	With franklins everywhere in his country,	De toți răzeșii[36] într-al său ținut
217: And eek with worthy wommen of the toun;	And with the worthy women of the town:	Și de cinstite doamne-așijderea;
218: For he hadde power of confessioun,	For at confessing he'd more power in gown	Căci tare cu temei le spovedea,

[34] **patru cinuri**: cele patru ordine călugărești, anume dominicanii, carmeliții, franciscanii și augustinii.

[35] **multe jupânițe... cu osteneala sa**: cu alte cuvinte, acest călugăr găsea soți femeilor pe care le sedusese el mai întâi.

[36] **răzeși** (în orig. *franklin)*: proprietari agricoli bogați, boierinași de țară.

219: As seyde hymself, moore than a curat,	(As he himself said) than it good curate,	Mai bine ca un preut, pentru care
220: For of his ordre he was licenciat.	For of his order he was licentiate.	Îi dase cinul încuviințare.
221: Ful swetely herde he confessioun,	He heard confession gently, it was said,	Duhovnicește-ți asculta spovada
222: And plesaunt was his absolucioun:	Gently absolved too, leaving naught of dread.	Și—iacă—dezlegarea era gata.
223: He was an esy man to yeve penaunce,	He was an easy man to give penance	Canoane-ți poruncea mai cu ușorul
224: Ther as he wiste to have a good pitaunce.	When knowing he should gain a good pittance;	Dacă-i lipeai în palmă bănișorul,
225: For unto a povre ordre for to yive	For to a begging friar, money given	Căci miluind călugăr necăjit
226: Is signe that a man is wel yshryve;	Is sign that any man has been well shriven.	Se cheamă că temeinic ești grijit,
227: For if he yaf, he dorste make avaunt,	For if one gave (he dared to boast of this),	Cum se grăbea a spune el: de dărui
228: He wiste that a man was repentaunt;	He took the man's repentance not amiss.	Vădești că în păcate nu mai stărui
229: For many a man so hard is of his herte,	For many a man there is so hard of heart	—Căci sunt destui chiloși ce nu ți-ar plânge
230: He may nat wepe, althogh hym soore smerte.	He cannot weep however pains may smart.	Nici de le dai canon să scuipe sânge.
231: Therfore in stede of wepynge and	Therefore, instead of weeping and of	Păi zău, în loc de plâns și rugi la cer





preyeres	prayer,	
232: Men moote yeve silver to the povre freres.	Men should give silver to poor friars all bare.	Mai bine miluiești pe-acei de cer.
233: His typet was ay farsed ful of knyves	His tippet was stuck always full of knives	Avea-n suman cuțite arătoase
234: And pynnes, for to yeven faire wyves.	And pins, to give to young and pleasing wives.	Și spelci de dat cumetrelor ochioase.
235: And certeinly he hadde a murye note:	And certainly he kept a merry note:	Era cântarea-i tuturor plăcută
236: Wel koude he synge and pleyen on a rote;	Well could he sing and play upon the rote.	Și vesel mai zicea din alăută.
237: Of yeddynges he baar outrely the pris.	At balladry he bore the prize away.	La glas nu-l întrecea nici un creștin.
238: His nekke whit was as the flour-de-lys;	His throat was white as lily of the May;	Grumazu-i alb era ca albul crin
239: Therto he strong was as a champioun.	Yet strong he was as ever champion.	Și n-arăta plăpând și nice prost.
240: He knew the tavernes wel in every toun	In towns he knew the taverns, every one,	Știa oricare rateș pe de rost
241: And everich hostiler and tappestere	And every good host and each barmaid	Și pe hangii și slujnicele lor





	too	
242: Bet than a lazar or a beggestere;	Better than begging lepers, these he knew.	Mai bin' ca pe leproși sau cerșetori.
243: For unto swich a worthy man as he	For unto no such solid man as he	Deh, unui om de vază cum e el
244: Acorded nat, as by his facultee,	Accorded it, as far as he could see,	Cuvine-se cu greu, ba chiar de fel,
245: To have with sike lazars aqueyntaunce.	To have sick lepers for acquaintances.	Să șadă-n cârd cu alde cerșetorii,
246: It is nat honest, it may nat avaunce,	There is no honest advantageousness	Căci nu-i dădea lui spor la apa morii
247: For to deelen with no swich poraille,	In dealing with such poverty-stricken curs;	Să aibă târg cu-așijderi prăpădiți,
248: But al with riche and selleres of vitaille.	It's with the rich and with big victuallers.	Ci cu răzeși, cu negustori cinstiți.
249: And over al, ther as profit sholde arise,	And so, wherever profit might arise,	Unde ciupea câștig mai răsărit
250: Curteis he was and lowely of servyse.	Courteous he was and humble in men's eyes.	Era cuviincios și ploconit.
251: Ther nas no man nowher so vertuous.	There was no other man so virtuous.	Și nu aflai în toată tagma lor
252: He was the beste beggere in his hous;	He was the finest beggar of his house;	Mai harnic și mai spornic cerșetor.





252.1: (and yaf a certeyne ferme for the graunt;	A certain district being farmed to him,	Dădea și-anume câști[37] la stăreție
252.2: Noon of his bretheren cam ther in his haunt;)	None of his brethren dared approach its rim;	Alt frate să nu-i calce pe moșie[38].
253: For thogh a wydwe hadde noght a sho,	For though a widow had no shoes to show,	Când răspica el *In principio*[39],
254: So plesaunt was his in principio,	So pleasant was his In principio,	Chiar și-o vădană, n-avea încotro,
255: Yet wolde he have a ferthyng, er he wente.	He always got a farthing ere he went.	Tot îi trecea un ban drept mulțămită.
256: His purchas was wel bettre than his rente.	He lived by pickings, it is evident.	Așa strângea din plin agonisită.
257: And rage he koude, as it were right a	And he could romp as well as any whelp.	Se gudura ca javra pentru os;

[37] **Câști**: chirie, arendă.

[38] **Dădea**... pe moșie: Aceste două versuri, deși ale lui Ch., nu apar decât în puține manuscrise. Ele au fost omise în celelalte versiuni, probabil datorită faptului că scindează ideea.

[39] **In principio**: începutul Evangheliei lui Ioan, *In principio erat Verbum (La început a fost Cuvântul)*. Se credea că primele versete ale acestei Evanghelii aveau putere magică.

whelp.		
258: In love-dayes ther koude he muchel help,	On love days could he be of mickle help.	Iar la-mpăcări[40] era de mult folos
259: For ther he was nat lyk a cloysterer	For there he was not like a cloisterer,	Căci n-arăta ca un monah de schit
260: With a thredbare cope, as is a povre scoler,	With threadbare cope as is the poor scholar,	Cu straiul ros, au vreun diac pârlit,
261: But he was lyk a maister or a pope.	But he was like a lord or like a pope.	Ci ca un papă sau un jude mare.
262: Of double worstede was his semycope,	Of double worsted was his semi-cope,	Din lână, pelerina-i pe spinare
263: That rounded as a belle out of the presse.	That rounded like a bell, as you may guess.	Se înfoia ca dată cu scrobeală.
264: Somwhat he lipsed, for his wantownesse,	He lisped a little, out of wantonness,	Vorbea cam zâzăit, de fandoseală,
265: To make his englissh sweete upon his tonge;	To make his English soft upon his tongue;	Să-i curgă dulce limba anglicească,

[40] **la-mpăcări** etc.: existau anumite zile rezervate soluționării pe cale pașnică a neînțelegerilor dintre oameni cu ajutorul unui arbitru, ales de cele mai multe ori din rândul clericilor.

266: And in his harpyng, whan that he hadde songe,	And in his harping, after he had sung,	Iar când prindea cinghia s-o-nstrunească,
267: His eyen twynkled in his heed aryght,	His two eyes twinkled in his head as bright	Sticleau sub gene ochii săi sprințar
268: As doon the sterres in the frosty nyght.	As do the stars within the frosty night.	Ca stelele pe cerul lui Gerar.
269: This worthy lymytour was cleped huberd.	This worthy limiter was named Hubert.	Și Huberd în chema pe omul nost'.
The Merchant's Portrait	**The Merchant** 	**Negustor**
270: A marchant was ther with a forked berd,	There was a merchant with forked beard, and girt	Și-un NEGUSTOR cu barba-n furcă-a fost,





271: In mottelee, and hye on horse he sat;	In motley gown, and high on horse he sat,	În strai bălțat, și falnic stând în șa.
272: Upon his heed a flaundryssh bever hat,	Upon his head a Flemish beaver hat;	O cușmă ca flamanzii el purta
273: His bootes clasped faire and fetisly.	His boots were fastened rather elegantly.	Și încălțări cu rame-mpodobite.
274: His resons he spak ful solempnely,	His spoke his notions out right pompously,	Vorbea domol, cu vorbe răzvedite,
275: Sownynge alwey th' encrees of his wynnyng.	Stressing the times when he had won, not lost.	Căci, iscusit la treaba părălească,
276: He wolde the see were kept for any thyng	He would the sea were held at any cost	Mereu chitea câștigul să-și sporească.
277: Bitwixe middelburgh and orewelle.	Across from Middleburgh to Orwell town.	El nu-și dorea ocean tihnit decât
278: Wel koude he in eschaunge sheeldes selle.	At money-changing he could make a crown.	Din Middleburg la Orwell[41], și atât.
279: This worthy man ful wel his wit bisette:	This worthy man kept all his wits well set;	Scruma cu mintea ageră-i de zor;
280: Ther wiste no wight that he was in	There was no one could say he was in	Se-ndatora, dar nu-l știau dator,

[41] **Între Middleburg**, port din Flandra, **și Orwell**, de pe coasta de Est a Marii Britanii, se făcea un intens comerț cu lână.

dette,	debt,	
281: So estatly was he of his governaunce	So well he governed all his trade affairs	Atâta greutate ce vădea
282: With his bargaynes and with his chevyssaunce.	With bargains and with borrowings and with shares.	Când neguța au când cămătărea,
283: For sothe he was a worthy man with alle,	Indeed, he was a worthy man withal,	Fiind în toată fapta celibiu;
284: But, sooth to seyn, I noot how men hym calle.	But, sooth to say, his name I can't recall.	Dar cum i-au zis pe nume, zău nu știu.
The Clerk's Portrait	**The Clerk**	**Diacul**
		
285: A clerk ther was of oxenford also,	A clerk from Oxford was with us also,	Și un DIAC DIN OXFORD am zărit,

286: That unto logyk hadde longe ygo.	Who'd turned to getting knowledge, long ago.	În logică de fraged pedepsit.
287: As leene was his hors as is a rake,	As meagre was his horse as is a rake,	Ca grebla era gloaba lui de cal,
288: And he nas nat right fat, I undertake,	Nor he himself too fat, I'll undertake,	Dar nice el mai grăsuliu, halal!
289: But looked holwe, and therto sobrely.	But he looked hollow and went soberly.	Ci supt era la chip, și supt la burtă.
290: Ful thredbare was his overeste courtepy;	Right threadbare was his overcoat; for he	Rărită rău era jiletca-i scurtă,
291: For he hadde geten hym yet no benefice,	Had got him yet no churchly benefice,	Căci de-ale lumii nu voia să știe
292: Ne was so worldly for to have office.	Nor was so worldly as to gain office.	Și nu-și luase încă parohie.
293: For hym was levere have at his beddes heed	For he would rather have at his bed's head	La căpătâi multe-i erau mai drage
294: Twenty bookes, clad in blak or reed,	Some twenty books, all bound in black and red,	Din piele neagră-au roșie hârțoage
295: Of aristotle and his philosophie,	Of Aristotle and his philosophy	De Aristot și-a sa filosofie
296: Than robes riche, or fithele, or gay sautrie.	Than rich robes, fiddle, or gay psaltery.	Decât scumpeturi, scripcă sau cinghie.

297: But al be that he was a philosophre,	Yet, and for all he was philosopher,	Măcar că filosof[42] era, de viță,
298: Yet hadde he but litel gold in cofre;	He had but little gold within his coffer;	Nu-i zornăiau mulți galbeni în lăcriță;
299: But al that he myghte of his freendes hente,	But all that he might borrow from a friend	Iar de-i făceau de bani prieteni parte,
300: On bookes and on lernynge he it spente,	On books and learning he would swiftly spend,	Îi da pe cărți, și ca să-nvețe carte
301: And bisily gan for the soules preye	And then he'd pray right busily for the souls	Și se ruga să-i apere de boli,
302: Of hem that yaf hym wherwith to scoleye.	Of those who gave him wherewithal for schools.	Pe cei ce-l ajutau să stea prin școli.
303: Of studie took he moost cure and moost heede,	Of study took he utmost care and heed.	Era-nsetat de slovă, și mintos:
304: Noght o word spak he moore than was neede,	Not one word spoke he more than was his need;	N-ar fi zvârlit o vorbă de prisos
305: And that was seyd in forme and reverence,	And that was said in fullest reverence	Ci își rostea cuvântul cu măsură,
306: And short and quyk and ful of hy	And short and quick and full of high good	Pe scurt, dar greu de tâlc și-nvățătură

[42] **filosof**: joc de cuvinte. <Filosof> însemna și <alchimist> în Evul Mediu.

sentence;	sense.	
307: Sownynge in moral vertu was his speche,	Pregnant of moral virtue was his speech;	Și de virtutea cea moralicească;
308: And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche.	And gladly would he learn and gladly teach.	Și foarte-i mai plăcea să dăscălească.

The The Man of Law's Portrait

The Lawyer



Notarul

309: A sergeant of the lawe, war and wys,	A sergeant of the law, wary and wise,	Apoi NOTARUL, drept și chibzuit,
310: That often hadde been at the parvys,	Who'd often gone to Paul's walk to advise,	Ce-adesea la Sânt Pavel[43] a slujit,
311: Ther was also, ful riche of excellence.	There was also, compact of excellence.	Era cu noi, om doldora de carte
312: Discreet he was and of greet reverence	Discreet he was, and of great reverence;	Și așezat, deplin în cinste foarte;
313: He semed swich, his wordes weren so wise.	At least he seemed so, his words were so wise.	Așa părea, când stai la el să cați...
314: Justice he was ful often in assise,	Often he sat as justice in assize,	Ades fusese jude la jurați,
315: By patente and by pleyn commissioun.	By patent or commission from the crown;	Și ca prepus și cu peceți în lege;
316: For his science and for his heigh renoun,	Because of learning and his high renown,	Pentru știința-i naltă, se-nțelege,
317: Of fees and robes hadde he many oon.	He took large fees and many robes could own.	Avea și mantii și bănet cu carul,
318: So greet a purchasour was nowher noon:	So great a purchaser was never known.	Așa de căutat era notarul.
319: Al was fee symple to hym in effect;	All was fee simple to him, in effect,	Când întocmea-ntre oameni o-nvoială,

[43] **Sânt Pavel**: e vorba de Catedrala Sfântului Pavel din Londra, unde avocații se întruneau pentru consultații și pentru a-și recruta clientela.

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320: His purchasyng myghte nat been infect.	Wherefore his claims could never be suspect.	Lui nimeni nu-i scornea tăgăduială.
321: Nowher so bisy a man as he ther nas,	Nowhere a man so busy of his class,	N-aflai pe lume om mai trepădarnic,
322: And yet he semed bisier than he was.	And yet he seemed much busier than he was.	Deși, zic eu, mai mult părea că-i harnic.
323: In termes hadde he caas and doomes alle	All cases and all judgments could he cite	Ci câte pricini și județe-au fost,
324: That from the tyme of kyng william were falle.	That from King William's time were apposite.	Din vremuri, le știa el pe de rost.
325: Therto he koude endite, and make a thyng,	And he could draw a contract so explicit	Hrisoave migălea cu-așa dichis
326: Ther koude no wight pynche at his writyng;	Not any man could fault therefrom elicit;	Că nimeni nu-i găsea cusur la scris,
327: And every statut koude he pleyn by rote.	And every statute he'd verbatim quote.	Și buche-n buche legile știa.
328: He rood but hoomly in a medlee cote.	He rode but badly in a medley coat,	Purta la drum, bălțată, o giubea,
329: Girt with a ceint of silk, with barres smale;	Belted in a silken sash, with little bars,	Încins cu brâu vrâstat, de borangic;
330: Of his array telle I no lenger tale.	But of his dress no more particulars.	De portul său atâta doar vă zic.

The Franklin's Portrait

331: A frankeleyn was in his compaignye.
332: Whit was his berd as is the dayesye;
333: Of his complexioun he was sangwyn.
334: Wel loved he by the morwe a sop in wyn;

The Franklin



There was a franklin in his company;
White was his beard as is the white daisy.
Of sanguine temperament by every sign,
He loved right well his morning sop in wine.

Răzeşul

Pe-acesta un RĂZEȘ îl însoțea
Ce barbă albă ca un crin avea.
Îi dogorea-n obraji prisos de sânge:
Darabi în vin din zori pornea a stânge.

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335: To lyven in delit was evere his wone,	Delightful living was the goal he'd won,	Era plecat spre pofte și huzur
336: For he was epicurus owene sone,	For he was Epicurus' very son,	Ca vrednic fiu al tatei Epicur[44],
337: That heeld opinioun that pleyn delit	That held opinion that a full delight	Cel care-a zis c-a inimii-mplinire
338: Was verray felicitee parfit.	Was true felicity, perfect and right.	E pe pământ deplina fericire.
339: An housholdere, and that a greet, was he;	A householder, and that a great, was he;	Ca dânsul gazdă bună nu era:
340: Seint julian he was in his contree.	Saint Julian he was in his own country.	Sânt Iulian[45], pe drept, în țara sa.
341: His breed, his ale, was alweys after oon;	His bread and ale were always right well done;	Ce pâine-avea! Și berea tot așa!
342: A bettre envyned man was nowher noon.	A man with better cellars there was none.	Om pizmuit ca el nu se afla.
343: Withoute bake mete was nevere his hous	Baked meat was never wanting in his house,	Din casă nu i-ar fi lipsit bucate
344: Of fissh and flessh, and that so	Of fish and flesh, and that so plenteous	De pește sau de frupt, îmbelșugate.

[44] **Epicur**: filosof grec (342? – 270 î.e.n.), întemeietorul școlii epicuriene, potrivit căreia țelul omului trebuie să fie o viață de plăcere reglementată de morală, cumpătare, seninătate. În accepțiunea vulgară, epicurianismul este asociat cu luxul și plăcerile trupești.

[45] **Sânt Iulian**: sfântul Iulian Ospitalierul, figură legendară, patronul ospitalității.

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plentevous,		
345: It snewed in his hous of mete and drynke,	It seemed to snow therein both food and drink	Te luau de nas mirodii felurite
346: Of alle deyntees that men koude thynke.	Of every dainty that a man could think.	De toate câte-n lume-s jinduite.
347: After the sondry sesons of the yeer,	According to the season of the year	În an, precum creștea sau nu lumina,
348: So chaunged he his mete and his soper.	He changed his diet and his means of cheer.	Așa-și schimba el prânzul său și cina.
349: Ful many a fat partrich hadde he in muwe,	Full many a fattened partridge did he mew,	Avea-n coteață prepelițe grase,
350: And many a breem and many a luce in stuwe.	And many a bream and pike in fish-pond too.	Plătici și știuci în iaz, pe lângă case.
351: Wo was his cook but if his sauce were	Woes to his cook, except the sauces were	Vai lui de bucătar de nu brodea
352: Poynaunt and sharp, and redy al his geere.	Poignant and sharp, and ready all his gear.	O zeamă iute-n focuri de boia.

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353: His table dormant in his halle alway	His table, waiting in his hall alway,	Pe masa mare[46] se-nșirau bogate
354: Stood redy covered al the longe day.	Stood ready covered through the livelong day.	Zi, noapte, fel și feluri de bucate.
355: At sessiouns ther was he lord and sire;	At county sessions was he lord and sire,	Era mai-marele la ei în sfat
356: Ful ofte tyme he was knyght of the shire.	And often acted as a knight of shire.	Și-adesea cavaler în comitat[47].
357: An anlaas and a gipser al of silk	A dagger and a trinket-bag of silk	Pumnal și pungă albă de mătasă
358: Heeng at his girdel, whit as morne milk.	Hung from his girdle, white as morning milk.	Îi spânzurau la cingătoarea groasă.
359: A shirreve hadde he been, and a contour.	He had been sheriff and been auditor;	Fusese vel-ispravnic[48]și pârgar;
360: Was nowher swich a worthy	And nowhere was a worthier vavasor.	Ca dumnealui boierinaș mai rar.

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[46] **masa mare**: masă fixă, spre deosebire de mesele mobile, puse pe capre.

[47] **cavaler în comitat** (în orig. *knyght of the shire)*: membru în Parlament din partea comitatului său.

[48] **vel-ispravnic** (în orig. *contour)*: verificator de conturi; plegar (în orig. *shirreve – sherriff)*: consilier comunal.

vavasour.

The Guildsmen's Portrait

361: An haberdasshere and a carpenter,

The Haberdasher and the Carpenter the Weaver, the Dyer, and the Arras-Maker



A haberdasher and a carpenter,

Mămularul, boinagiul, dugherul, țesătorul şi tapițerul

Un MĂMULAR, un BOIANGIU,

		DULGHERUL,
362: A webbe, a dyere, and a tapycer,	An arras-maker, dyer, and weaver	Apoi un ȚESĂTOR și TAPIȚERUL
363: And they were clothed alle in o lyveree	Were with us, clothed in similar livery,	Mai călăreau cu noi în strai anume
364: Of a solempne and a greet fraternitee.	All of one sober, great fraternity.	Al unei bresle mari și cu renume,
365: Ful fressh and newe hir geere apiked was;	Their gear was new and well adorned it was;	Strai nou, bogat. Și mai băgai de seamă
366: Hir knyves were chaped noght with bras	Their weapons were not cheaply trimmed with brass,	Junghere cu tecuțe nu de-alamă,
367: But al with silver; wroght ful clene and weel	But all with silver; chastely made and well	Ci de argint, măiestre și curate,
368: Hire girdles and hir pouches everydeel.	Their girdles and their pouches too, I tell.	Și pungi și cingători la fel lucrate.
369: Wel semed ech of hem a fair burgeys	Each man of them appeared a proper burges	Toți arătau a târgoveți de vază,
370: To sitten in a yeldehalle on a deys.	To sit in guildhall on a high dais.	Prea buni în sfat pe podină[49] să șază.

[49] **pe podină etc.**: primarul și consilierii principali ședeau pe o estradă.





371: Everich, for the wisdom that he kan,	And each of them, for wisdom he could span,	Și dovedeau atâta cuminție,
372: Was shaply for to been an alderman.	Was fitted to have been an alderman;	Putând oricare staroste să fie,
373: For catel hadde they ynogh and rente,	For chattels they'd enough, and, too, of rent;	Căci toți aveau câștig frumos și chiag[50],
374: And eek hir wyves wolde it wel assente;	To which their goodwives gave a free assent,	Iar soațele s-ar fi-nvoit cu drag,
375: And elles certeyn were they to blame.	Or else for certain they had been to blame.	Căci doară cine nu se vrea de viță!
376: It is ful fair to been ycleped madame,	It's good to hear "Madam" before one's name,	Plăcut e să te cheme <jupâniță>
377: And goon to vigilies al bifore,	And go to church when all the world may see,	Care dintâia la priveghi[51] pășește
378: And have a mantel roialliche ybore.	Having one's mantle borne right royally.	Și i se poartă mantia regește[52].

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[50] **Căci toți aveau etc.**: conform legiuirilor vremii, pentru a putea deveni consilier comunal se cerea să ai o anumită avere.

[51] **priveghi** (în orig. *vigilies)*: reuniune din ajunul unei serbări corporatiste.

[52] **Și i se poartă etc.**: soțiile burghezilor de vază puneau să li se ducă mantiile.

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The Cook's Portrait	The Cook	Bucătarul
		
379: A cook they hadde with hem for the nones	A cook they had with them, just for the nonce,	Și-un BUCĂTAR cu ei la drum luase
380: To boille the chiknes with the marybones,	To boil the chickens with the marrow-bones,	Să fiarbă pui cu măduvioară-n oase,

381: And poudre-marchant tart and galyngale.	And flavour tartly and with galingale.	Cu obligeană dres și cu boia.
382: Wel koude he knowe a draughte of londoun ale.	Well could he tell a draught of London ale.	Știa când berea-i bună și când ba.
383: He koude rooste, and sethe, and broille, and frye,	And he could roast and seethe and broil and fry,	Se pricepea, și nu i-o luai nainte,
384: Maken mortreux, and wel bake a pye.	And make a good thick soup, and bake a pie.	La fiertul ciorbei și la copt plăcinte,
385: But greet harm was it, as it thoughte me,	But very ill it was, it seemed to me,	Dar îl pălise naiba cu-o belea,
386: That on his shyne a mormal hadde he.	That on his shin a deadly sore had he;	Căci pe țurloi avea o bubă rea.
387: For blankmanger, that made he with the beste	For sweet blanc-mange, he made it with the best.	Păcat, că blancmanjé[53] făcea—minune...

[53] **Blancmanjé** (în orig. *Blankmanger)*: un fel de pateu din carne de pasăre fiartă cu ouă, orez, migdale și zahăr.





The Shipman's Portrait

388: A shipman was ther, wonynge fer by weste;

The Sailor



There was a sailor, living far out west;

Corăbierul

Și-un CORĂBIER—pre câte mi se spune

389: For aught I woot, he was of dertemouthe.	For aught I know, he was of Dartmouth town.	Din Dartmouth, hăt departe din Apus—
390: He rood upon a rounce, as he kouthe,	He sadly rode a hackney, in a gown,	Pe-o gloabă călărea, hop-hop, sus-sus,
391: In a gowne of faldyng to the knee.	Of thick rough cloth falling to the knee.	În anteriu foiat, pân' la genunchi.
392: A daggere hangynge on a laas hadde he	A dagger hanging on a cord had he	Pe după gât își atârnase junghi
393: Aboute his nekke, under his arm adoun.	About his neck, and under arm, and down.	De o curea, mai jos de subsuoară.
394: The hoote somer hadde maad his hewe al broun;	The summer's heat had burned his visage brown;	Îl tuciurise vipia de vară.
395: And certeinly he was a good felawe.	And certainly he was a good fellow.	Băiat de treabă altfel. Când plutea
396: Ful many a draughte of wyn had he ydrawe	Full many a draught of wine he'd drawn, I trow,	Dinspre Bordeaux, supsese la canea
397: Fro burdeux-ward, whil that the chapmen sleep.	Of Bordeaux vintage, while the trader slept.	Vârtos, cât au dormit vinarul tun.
398: Of nyce conscience took he no keep.	Nice conscience was a thing he never kept.	De cuget nu se sinchisea nicicum.
399: If that he faught, and hadde the hyer hond,	If that he fought and got the upper hand,	Pe cei ce-n harțe tivda le-o crăpase

400: By water he sente hem hoom to every lond.	By water he sent them home to every land.	Îi da pe val, să-i ducă valu-acasă.
401: But of his craft to rekene wel his tydes,	But as for craft, to reckon well his tides,	La huța mării, care-i zic maree,
402: His stremes, and his daungers hym bisides,	His currents and the dangerous watersides,	La stânci, la lună, seama cum să deie
403: His herberwe, and his moone, his lodemenage,	His harbours, and his moon, his pilotage,	Când își cârmea înspre liman catarga
404: Ther nas noon swich from hulle to cartage.	There was none such from Hull to far Carthage.	Naș nu-i găseai din Hull[54] până-n Cartaga.
405: Hardy he was and wys to undertake;	Hardy. and wise in all things undertaken,	Vânjos era și tare chibzuit.
406: With many a tempest hadde his berd been shake.	By many a tempest had his beard been shaken.	Ce de furtuni prin barbă i-au vuit!
407: He knew alle the havenes, as they were,	He knew well all the havens, as they were,	Știa orice liman pe dinafară

[54] **Hull**: port în Yorkshire. **Cartaga**: probabil un port spaniol, și nu vechea Cartagină.

408: Fro gootlond to the cape of fynystere,	From Gottland to the Cape of Finisterre,	Din Gotland pân' la capul Cap-de-Țară[55],
409: And every cryke in britaigne and in spayne.	And every creek in Brittany and Spain;	Și orice sân de mare cunoștea.
410: His barge ycleped was the maudelayne.	His vessel had been christened Madeleine.	Iar vasu-i *Mădălina* se numea.

The Physician's Portrait

The Physician



Doftorul

[55] **Gotland** (în orig. *Gootlond)*: insulă din Marea Baltică. Capul Cap-de-Țară se referă fie la Finisterre, în Bretania, fie la Finisterra, în Spania.

411: With us ther was a doctour of phisik;	With us there was a doctor of physic;	Cu noi era și-un DOFTOR, vrednic vraci
412: In al this world ne was the noon hym lik,	In all this world was none like him to pick	Ca el pe lume nimeni mai dibaci
413: To speke of phisik and of surgerye	For talk of medicine and surgery;	La medițină sau la firurgie;
414: For he was grounded in astronomye.	For he was grounded in astronomy.	Temeinic cunoștea astronomie[56].
415: He kepte his pacient a ful greet deel	He often kept a patient from the pall	La căpătâi ședea să-ți dibuiască
416: In houres by his magyk natureel.	By horoscopes and magic natural.	Ce ceasuri ai, prin vraja lui firească[57],
417: Wel koude he fortunen the ascendent	Well could he tell the fortune ascendent	Și chipurile de la zodiac
418: Of his ymages for his pacient.	Within the houses for his sick patient.	Le potrivea până-ți dădea de leac.
419: He knew the cause of everich maladye,	He knew the cause of every malady,	Știa din ce se trage orice boală:
420: Were it of hoot, or coold, or moyste,	Were it of hot or cold, of moist or dry,	Din cald sau frig[58], din sec sau umezeală,

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[56] **astronomie:** ceea ce numim astăzi <astrologie>.

[57] **ceasuri:** orele astrologice; **vraja firească:** <magia naturală>, socotită a fi știință legală, spre deosebire de <magia neagră> sau <necromanția>.

[58] **cald sau frig etc.**: în evul mediu se credea că trupul omului se compune din patru elemente: pământ, aer, apă și foc, în proporții bine stabilite. *Pământul* era rece și uscat, *aerul*, fierbinte și umed, *apa*, rece și umedă, iar f*ocul*, fierbinte și uscat. Bolile erau atribuite dezechilibrului survenit în felul cum se îmbinau aceste elemente în umori: *sângele* (fierbinte și uscat), *flegma* (rece și umedă), *bila galbenă* (fierbinte și uscată) și *bila neagră* sau atrabila (rece și uscată).

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or drye,		
421: And where they engendred, and of what humour.	And where engendered, and of what humour;	Unde năşteau şi de la ce umoare.
422: He was a verray, parfit praktisour:	He was a very good practitioner.	N-aflai asemeni lui alt vraci sub soare.
423: The cause yknowe, and of his harm the roote,	The cause being known, down to the deepest root,	Cum dibuia a răului sorginte
424: Anon he yaf the sike man his boote.	Anon he gave to the sick man his boot.	Ştia să-ţi dea şi leacul cel cuminte.
425: Ful redy hadde he his apothecaries	Ready he was, with his apothecaries,	Spiţerul îi sta gata la chemare
426: To sende hym drogges and his letuaries,	To send him drugs and all electuaries;	Cu toate cele tămăduitoare,
427: For ech of hem made oother for to wynne --	By mutual aid much gold they'd always won—	Căci unul pe-altul se îndatorau
428: Hir frendshipe nas nat newe to bigynne.	Their friendship was a thing not new begun.	Întru câştig—şi prieteni vechi erau.
429: Wel knew he the olde esculapius,	Well read was he in Esculapius,	Ştia pe Esculap pe dinafară,
430: And deyscorides, and eek rufus,	And Deiscorides, and in Rufus,	Pe Rufus şi Dioscorid, şi iară,
431: Olde ypocras, haly, and galyen,	Hippocrates, and Hali, and Galen,	Pe Hipocrat, Halí şi Galien,

432: Serapion, razis, and avycen,	Serapion, Rhazes, and Avicen,	Serapion, Razis și Avicen[59],
433: Averrois, damascien, and constantyn,	Averrhoes, Gilbert, and Constantine,	Damascul, Averoe, Constantin,
434: Bernard, and gatesden, and gilbertyn.	Bernard and Gatisden, and John Damascene.	Bernard și Gatesden și Gilbertin[60].
435: Of his diete mesurable was he,	In diet he was measured as could be,	Mâncarea lui—în totul cumpătată,
436: For it was of no superfluitee,	Including naught of superfluity,	Cu de prisos nimica încărcată,
437: But of greet norissyng and digestible.	But nourishing and easy. It's no libel	Ușor de mistuit și hrănitoare.
438: His studie was but litel on the bible.	To say he read but little in the Bible.	Din Biblii nu citise lucru mare.
439: In sangwyn and in pers he clad was al,	In blue and scarlet he went clad, withal,	Era-mbrăcat în roșie giubea

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[59] **Esculap:** zeul medicinii. **Rufus:** medic din Efes, contemporan cu Traian. **Dioscorid**: medic grec din secolul al II-lea. **Hipocrat:** medic grec, născut pe la 460 î.e.n. **Hali**: secolul al XI-lea, comentator arab al lui Galenus. **Galien:** medic grec, autor de tratate medicale, secolul al II-lea. **Serapion**: contemporan al lui Hali. **Razis:** medic arab din secolul al X-lea. **Avicenna:** celebru medic și filosof tadjic (980-1037?).

[60] **Damascul:** medic și teolog arab din secolul al IX-lea. **Averoe**: medic și filosof arab (1126-1198). **Constantin:** Constantinus Afer, călugăr din Cartagina, secolul al XII-lea. **Bernard:** Bernardus Gordonius, scoțian, contemporanul lui Ch., profesor de medicină la Montpellier. **Gatesden**: John Gatesden, medic al Curții în prima jumătate a secolului al XII-lea, a scris un tratat medical intitulat *Rosa Angelica*. **Gilbertin**: GilbertusAnglicus, unul dintre primii autori medicali englezi, secolul al XIV-lea.

440: Lyned with taffata and with sendal;	Lined with a taffeta and with sendal;	Cu céndal[61] căptușită și tafta.
441: And yet he was but esy of dispence;	And yet he was right chary of expense;	Dar punga nu și-o deschidea prea lesne,
442: He kepte that he wan in pestilence.	He kept the gold he gained from pestilence.	Ci strâns ținea câștigul din bolesne[62]:
443: For gold in phisik is a cordial,	For gold in physic is a fine cordial,	Căci aurul e-a inimii proptea[63],
444: Therefore he lovede gold in special.	And therefore loved he gold exceeding all.	De-aceea tare mult îl îndrăgea.
The Wife of Bath's Portrait	**The Wife of Bath** 	**Târgoveața de la Bath**

[61] **cendal**: stofă bogată de mătase.

[62] **bolesne**: epidemie. E vorba de epidemiile de ciumă de la jumătatea secolului al XIV-lea.

[63] **aurul e-a inimii proptea**: în medicina vremii aurul era folosit drept tonic cardiac.

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445: A good wif was ther of biside bathe,	There was a housewife come from Bath, or near,	Era și-o TÂRGOVEAȚĂ DE LA BATH,
446: But she was somdel deef, and that was scathe.	Who—sad to say—was deaf in either ear.	Nițel cam tare de urechi, păcat!
447: Of clooth-makyng she hadde swich an haunt,	At making cloth she had so great a bent	Nici Ghentul și nici Yprul[64] nu avea
448: She passed hem of ypres and of gaunt.	She bettered those of Ypres and even of Ghent.	Mai de ispravă țesător ca ea.
449: In al the parisshe wif ne was ther noon	In all the parish there was no goodwife	În parohie nu aflai cocoană
450: That to the offrynge bifore hire sholde goon;	Should offering make before her, on my life;	În drept să ducă mai întâi pomană,[65]
451: And if ther dide, certeyn so wrooth was she,	And if one did, indeed, so wroth was she	Iar când i-o lua-nainte vreo surată
452: That she was out of alle charitee.	It put her out of all her charity.	Uita de milă și zbiera turbată.

[64] **Nici Ghentul și nici Yprul etc.**: aceste două orașe (*Gand* și *Ypres)* erau importante centre ale comerțului cu lână al Flandrei.

[65] **În drept să ducă etc.:** ofrandele de pâine și vin și de bani erau înmânate preotului în ordinea treptei sociale căreia aparțineau credincioșii.

453: Hir coverchiefs ful fyne weren of ground;	Her kerchiefs were of finest weave and ground;	Purta mărămi urzite de-o minune,
454: I dorste swere they weyeden ten pound	I dare swear that they weighed a full ten pound	Iar cele de duminecă pot spune
455: That on a sonday weren upon hir heed.	Which, of a Sunday, she wore on her head.	Că, zău, trăgeau vreo două-trei ocale.
456: Hir hosen weren of fyn scarlet reed,	Her hose were of the choicest scarlet red,	Colțuni avea de lână roșă, moale,
457: Ful streite yteyd, and shoes ful moyste and newe.	Close gartered, and her shoes were soft and new.	Întinși; și ghete nouă în picior;
458: Boold was hir face, and fair, and reed of hewe.	Bold was her face, and fair, and red of hue.	Chip rumen arăta, cutezător.
459: She was a worthy womman al hir lyve:	She'd been respectable throughout her life,	Trăise toată viața-n vrednicie
460: Housbondes at chirche dore she hadde five,	With five churched husbands bringing joy and strife,	Și cinci bărbați ținu cu cununie,
461: Withouten oother compaignye in youthe,	Not counting other company in youth;	Bez cei din tinerețea dumneaei...
462: But therof nedeth nat to speke as nowthe.	But thereof there's no need to speak, in truth.	Dar azi nu-i lipsă a vorbi de ei.





463: And thries hadde she been at jerusalem;	Three times she'd journeyed to Jerusalem;	Ierusalimul de trei ori văzuse,
464: She hadde passed many a straunge strem;	And many a foreign stream she'd had to stem;	Străine râuri multe mai trecuse,
465: At rome she hadde been, and at boloigne,	At Rome she'd been, and she'd been in Boulogne,	Fusese și la Roma și-n Bulonia[66],
466: In galice at seint-jame, and at coloigne.	In Spain at Santiago, and at Cologne.	La Sfântul Iacov, iar, și la Colonia[67].
467: She koude muchel of wandrynge by the weye.	She could tell much of wandering by the way:	Se dovedea a fi cam umblăreață;
468: Gat-tothed was she, soothly for to seye.	Gap-toothed was she, it is no lie to say.	Avea—ce-i drept e drept—și strungăreață[68]...
469: Upon an amblere esily she sat,	Upon an ambler easily she sat,	Cu vălul bine înnodat umbla

[66] **Bulonia:** Boulogne, în Franța, unde credincioșii făceau pelerinaj la statuia fecioarei Maria.

[67] **La Sfântul Iacov**: la altarul sfântului Iacob de Compostella din Galicia (Spania). **La Colonia**: la altarul celor trei magi de la răsărit.

[68] **Avea... și strungăreață**: se credea că persoanele cu strungăreață au noroc la călătorii (*Skeat)*: Pe de altă parte, în *Precuvântarea la Povestirea Târgoveței din Bath,* Târgoveața însăși leagă această particularitate fizică de firea ei amoroasă. Cf. nota pag. 255.





470: Ywympled wel, and on hir heed an hat	Well wimpled, aye, and over all a hat	Pe-o buiestrașă—și pe cap purta
471: As brood as is a bokeler or a targe;	As broad as is a buckler or a targe;	O pălărie cât un scut de mare;
472: A foot-mantel aboute hir hipes large,	A rug was tucked around her buttocks large,	Pe coapse fustă pentru mers călare
473: And on hir feet a paire of spores sharpe.	And on her feet a pair of sharpened spurs.	Și pinteni. Ne era ortacă bună:
474: In felaweshipe wel koude she laughe and carpe.	In company well could she laugh her slurs.	Știa să râză și trăsnăi să spună;
475: Of remedies of love she knew per chaunce,	The remedies of love she knew, perchance,	Poate știa și leacuri dragostei,
476: For she koude of that art the olde daunce.	For of that art she'd learned the old, old dance.	Deoarece la viața dumneaei...

The Parson's Portrait	The Parson	Popa
		
477: A good man was ther of religioun,	There was a good man of religion, too,	Și mai era un POPĂ dintr-un târg,
478: And was a povre persoun of a toun,	A country parson, poor, I warrant you;	Om nevoiaș, dar vrednic, plin de sârg
479: But riche he was of hooly thoght and werk.	But rich he was in holy thought and work.	La trebi, și în evlavie bogat.
480: He was also a lerned man, a clerk,	He was a learned man also, a clerk,	Era un grămătic și-un învățat





481: That cristes gospel trewely wolde preche;	Who Christ's own gospel truly sought to preach;	Care grăia curat, ca la Scriptură
482: His parisshens devoutly wolde he teche.	Devoutly his parishioners would he teach.	Și turma și-o-ndemna la-nvățătură;
483: Benygne he was, and wonder diligent,	Benign he was and wondrous diligent,	Blajin și săritor nevoie mare
484: And in adversitee ful pacient,	Patient in adverse times and well content,	Și plin, în ceasuri grele, de răbdare;
485: And swich he was ypreved ofte sithes.	As he was ofttimes proven; always blithe,	Adeseori se dovedise-așa.
486: Ful looth were hym to cursen for his tithes,	He was right loath to curse to get a tithe,	Pe răii platnici[69] nu-i afurisea
487: But rather wolde he yeven, out of doute,	But rather would he give, in case of doubt,	Ci mai curând îi mituia el însuși
488: Unto his povre parisshens aboute	Unto those poor parishioners about,	Pe bieții săi enoriași, rupându-și
489: Of his offryng and eek of his substaunce.	Part of his income, even of his goods.	De la pomeni și de la el din pungă.

[69] **răii platnici**: cei care nu plăteau zeciuială bisericii.

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490: He koude in litel thyng have suffisaunce.	Enough with little, coloured all his moods.	C-un te-miri-ce putea să se ajungă.
491: Wyd was his parisshe, and houses fer asonder,	Wide was his parish, houses far asunder,	În larga și răzleața-i parohie
492: But he ne lefte nat, for reyn ne thonder,	But never did he fail, for rain or thunder,	Cutreiera pe ploi și vijelie
493: In siknesse nor in meschief to visite	In sickness, or in sin, or any state,	Și-i cerceta neostenit mereu
494: The ferreste in his parisshe, muche and lite,	To visit to the farthest, small and great,	Pe mari și mici la molimi și la greu,
495: Upon his feet, and in his hand a staf.	Going afoot, and in his hand, a stave.	Cu cârja-n mână drumețind pe jos.
496: This noble ensample to his sheep he yaf,	This fine example to his flock he gave,	Pe poporeni îi pilduia frumos
497: That first he wroghte, and afterward he taughte.	That first he wrought and afterwards he taught;	Întâi lucrând și apoi predicând;
498: Out of the gospel he tho wordes caughte,	Out of the gospel then that text he caught,	Din Biblie luase-acest cuvânt.
499: And this figure he added eek therto,	And this figure he added thereunto-	<Când aurul coclește—mai spunea—

500: That if gold ruste, what shal iren do?	That, if gold rust, what shall poor iron do?	Ce să mai facă biata tinichea?>
501: For if a preest be foul, on whom we truste,	For if the priest be foul, in whom we trust,	Căci dacă însuși preotul greșește,
502: No wonder is a lewed man to ruste;	What wonder if a layman yield to lust?	Au te mai miri că mirul o scrântește?
503: And shame it is, if a prest take keep,	And shame it is, if priest take thought for keep,	Și ce rușine-i — dacă stai să cați —
504: A shiten shepherde and a clene sheep.	A shitty shepherd, shepherding clean sheep.	Cioban slinos la mielușei curați!
505: Wel oghte a preest ensample for to yive,	Well ought a priest example good to give,	De neprihană, popa e dator
506: By his clennesse, how that his sheep sholde lyve.	By his own cleanness, how his flock should live.	Să deie pildă-ntregului popor.
507: He sette nat his benefice to hyre	He never let his benefice for hire,	Nu-și închiria el slujba niciodată
508: And leet his sheep encombred in the myre	Leaving his flock to flounder in the mire,	Și nu-și lăsa turmuța înglodată
509: And ran to londoun unto seinte poules	And ran to London, up to old Saint Paul's	Fugind la Londra și cerșind la porți





510: To seken hym a chaunterie for soules,	To get himself a chantry there for souls,	Molitve lui Sânt Pavel pentru morți,
511: Or with a bretherhed to been withholde;	Nor in some brotherhood did he withhold;	Nici spre a-și face rostul să rămână
512: But dwelte at hoom, and kepte wel his folde,	But dwelt at home and kept so well the fold	În vreun schit, ci sta veghind la stână
513: So that the wolf ne made it nat myscarie;	That never wolf could make his plans miscarry;	Să nu dea iama lupul cel abraș.
514: He was a shepherde and noght a mercenarie.	He was a shepherd and not mercenary.	Bun păcurar era, nu simbriaș.
515: And though he hooly were and vertuous,	And holy though he was, and virtuous,	Dar cât era de smeric și pios,
516: He was to synful men nat despitous,	To sinners he was not impiteous,	El nu-l desprețuia pe păcătos,
517: Ne of his speche daungerous ne digne,	Nor haughty in his speech, nor too divine,	Nu predica rostit, vorbind de sus,
518: But in his techyng discreet and benygne.	But in all teaching prudent and benign.	Ci blând rostea cuvântul lui Isus.
519: To drawen folk to hevene by fairnesse,	To lead folk into Heaven but by stress	Se ostenea, neîntinat, să-ndrume

520: By good ensample, this was his bisynesse.	Of good example was his busyness.	Spre Cer, prin pilda lui, mireana lume.
521: But it were any persone obstinat,	But if some sinful one proved obstinate,	Dar când dădea de-un încăpățânat,
522: What so he were, of heigh or lough estat,	Be who it might, of high or low estate,	Domn să fi fost sau om de rând, îndat'
523: Hym wolde he snybben sharply for the nonys.	Him he reproved, and sharply, as I know.	Îl și punea frumos la locul lui.
524: A bettre preest I trowe that nowher noon ys.	There is nowhere a better priest, I trow.	Mai bun pe lume popă cred că nu-i.
525: He waited after no pompe and reverence,	He had no thirst for pomp or reverence,	Nici înălțări, nici fală nu căta,
526: Ne maked him a spiced conscience,	Nor made himself a special, spiced conscience,	Nici har de fariseu nu arăta,
527: But cristes loore and his apostles twelve	But Christ's own lore, and His apostles' twelve	Ci semăna cuvântul Mielului
528: He taughte, but first he folwed it hymselve.	He taught, but first he followed it himselve.	Urmând el cel dintâi pe calea lui.

The Plowman's Portrait

529: With hym ther was a plowman, was

The Plowman



With him there was a plowman, was his

Plugarul

Avea cu el și-un frate, un PLUGAR;

his brother,	brother,	
530: That hadde ylad of dong ful many a fother;	That many a load of dung, and many another	Cărase-acesta munți de bălegar;
531: A trewe swynkere and a good was he,	Had scattered, for a good true toiler, he,	Blajin era, trudea cu hărnicie,
532: Lyvynge in pees and parfit charitee.	Living in peace and perfect charity.	Trăia în pace și în curăție.
533: God loved he best with al his hoole herte	He loved God most, and that with his whole heart	Îl îndrăgea la bine și la rău
534: At alle tymes, thogh him gamed or smerte,	At all times, though he played or plied his art,	Din inimă pe bunul Dumnezeu
535: And thanne his neighebor right as hymselve.	And next, his neighbour, even as himself.	Și pe aproapele cât și pe sine.
536: He wolde thresshe, and therto dyke and delve,	He'd thresh and dig, with never thought of pelf,	Săpa și treiera pentru oricine
537: For cristes sake, for every povre wight,	For Christ's own sake, for every poor wight,	Nu pridiidea – de dragul lui Hristos –
538: Withouten hire, if it lay in his myght.	All without pay, if it lay in his might.	Fără arginți, cât se simțea vârtos,

539: His tithes payde he ful faire and wel,	He paid his taxes, fully, fairly, well,	Și zeciuiala o plătea cinstit
540: Bothe of his propre swynk and his catel.	Both by his own toil and by stuff he'd sell.	Din muncă și din ce-a agonisit.
541: In a tabard he rood upon a mere.	In a tabard he rode upon a mare.	În strai de in, o iapă-ncălăra[70].
542: Ther was also a reve, and a millere,	There were also a reeve and miller there;	Un Logofăt, Aprodul mai era
543: A somnour, and a pardoner also,	A summoner, manciple and pardoner,	Un Econom, Morarul derbedeu,
544: A maunciple, and myself -- ther were namo.	And these, beside myself, made all there were.	Un Vânzător de iertăciuni și EU.

[70] O iapă-ncălăra: a călări pe o iapă era un semn de stare modestă (Robinson).

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The Miller's Portrait	The Miller	Morarul
		
545: The millere was a stout carl for the nones;	The miller was a stout churl, be it known,	Era MORARUL[71] ditamai vlăjgan,
546: Ful byg he was of brawn, and eek of bones.	Hardy and big of brawn and big of bone;	Vânjos grozav și ciolănos avan.
547: That proved wel, for over al ther he cam,	Which was well proved, for when he went on lam	La trântă nimeni nu-l putea întrece

[71] **Morarul:** despre vocea puternică a Morarului se vorbește în *Precuvântarea la Povestirea Morarului*. Cf. nota pag. 53.

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548: At wrastlynge he wolde have alwey the ram.	At wrestling, never failed he of the ram.	Și hojma câștiga câte-un berbece[72].
549: He was short-sholdred, brood, a thikke knarre;	He was a chunky fellow, broad of build;	Era legat, spătos și nodoros,
550: Ther was no dore that he nolde heve of harre,	He'd heave a door from hinges if he willed,	Putând s-arunce orice poartă jos
551: Or breke it at a rennyng with his heed.	Or break it through, by running, with his head.	Din bălămăi, sau s-o sfărâme toată.
552: His berd as any sowe or fox was reed,	His beard, as any sow or fox, was red,	Bărboiul, lătăreț cât o lopată,
553: And therto brood, as though it were a spade.	And broad it was as if it were a spade.	Era roșcat ca părul de vulpoi;
554: Upon the cop right of his nose he hade	Upon the coping of his nose he had	Avea în partea dreaptă pe năsoi
555: A werte, and theron stood a toft of herys,	A wart, and thereon stood a tuft of hairs,	Un neg c-un smoc de păr care lucea
556: Reed as the brustles of a sowes erys;	Red as the bristles in an old sow's ears;	Tot roșu ca urechea de purcea.

[72] **berbece:** premiu ce se dădea de obicei celui care ieșea învingător la trântă.

557: His nosethirles blake were and wyde.	His nostrils they were black and very wide.	Avea nări negre și căscate foarte.
558: A swerd and bokeler bar he by his syde.	A sword and buckler bore he by his side.	Purta un scut și paloș într-o parte.
559: His mouth as greet was as a greet forneys.	His mouth was like a furnace door for size.	Gurița lui—cât gura de cuptor!
560: He was a janglere and a goliardeys,	He was a jester and could poetize,	Era un de măscări cuvântător;
561: And that was moost of synne and harlotries.	But mostly all of sin and ribaldries.	Dădea dintr-însul porcării duium.
562: Wel koude he stelen corn and tollen thries;	He could steal corn and full thrice charge his fees;	Știa să fure întreit uium,
563: And yet he hadde a thombe of gold, pardee.	And yet he had a thumb of gold, begad.	Dar nu-și bătea, zău, joc de meserie.
564: A whit cote and a blew hood wered he.	A white coat and blue hood he wore, this lad.	Purta strai alb și vânătă tichie.
565: A baggepipe wel koude he blowe and sowne,	A bagpipe he could blow well, be it known,	Se pricepea să sufle în cimpoi
566: And therwithal he broghte us out of	And with that same he brought us out of	Și tot cântând ne-a scos din târg pe noi.

towne.

town.

The Manciple's Portrait

The Manciple



Economul

567: A gentil maunciple was ther of a temple,

There was a manciple from an inn of court,

Putea să ieie pildă orice om

568: Of which achatours myghte take exemple	To whom all buyers might quite well resort	De la acest drăguț de ECONOM[73],
569: For to be wise in byynge of vitaille;	To learn the art of buying food and drink;	De se voia dibaci la negușat.
570: For wheither that he payde or took by taille,	For whether he paid cash or not, I think	Atâta se codea la cumpărat
571: Algate he wayted so in his achaat	That he so knew the markets, when to buy,	Că, ori plătea, ori lua pe veresie,
572: That he was ay biforn and in good staat.	He never found himself left high and dry.	Tot în câștig ieşea din prăvălie.
573: Now is nat that of God a ful fair grace	Now is it not of God a full fair grace	Au nu e ăsta har dumnezeiesc,
574: That swich a lewed mannes wit shal pace	That such a vulgar man has wit to pace	Când oameni fără carte dovedesc
575: The wisdom of an heep of lerned men?	The wisdom of a crowd of learned men?	Înțelepciunea multor învățați?
576: Of maistres hadde he mo than thries ten,	Of masters had he more than three times ten,	Erau în canțelarie-adunați

[73] **Econom** (în orig. *manciple)*: om însărcinat cu aprovizionarea unui colegiu, a unei comunități etc.

577: That weren of lawe expert and curious,	Who were in law expert and curious;	—Unde slujea—peste treizeci de inși,
578: Of which ther were a duszeyne in that hous	Whereof there were a dozen in that house	Clănțăi subțiri, cu pravila deprinși;
579: Worthy to been stywardes of rente and lond	Fit to be stewards of both rent and land	Vreo doisp'ce dintre ei ar fi putut
580: Of any lord that is in engelond,	Of any lord in England who would stand	Gospodări pe orice domn avut
581: To make hym lyve by his propre good	Upon his own and live in manner good,	Din Anglia, făcându-l din moșii
582: In honour dettelees (but if he were wood),	In honour, debtless (save his head were wood),	Să-și ducă traiul fără datorii,
583: Or lyve as scarsly as hym list desire;	Or live as frugally as he might desire;	Sau cât de mizer vrea; erau în stare
584: And able for to helpen al a shire	These men were able to have helped a shire	Să scoată și-un județ de la strâmtoare
585: In any caas that myghte falle or happe;	In any case that ever might befall;	De s-ar fi fost ivit vreo belea;

586: And yet this manciple sette hir aller cappe.

And yet this manciple outguessed them all.

Ci dumnealui pe toți îi păcălea.

The Reeve's Portrait

The Reeve



Logofătul





587: The reve was a sclendre colerik man.	The reeve he was a slender, choleric man	Era om iute LOGOFĂTUL[74], zău,
588: His berd was shave as ny as ever he kan;	Who shaved his beard as close as razor can.	Șui, barba rasă—burtă de șalău—
589: His heer was by his erys ful round yshorn;	His hair was cut round even with his ears;	Cu păr tăiat[75] pe la urechi rotund;
590: His top was dokked lyk a preest biforn	His top was tonsured like a pulpiteer's.	Pe creștet tuns cum preuții se tund.
591: Ful longe were his legges and ful lene,	Long were his legs, and they were very lean,	Avea țurloaie lungi și slabe tare,
592: Ylyk a staf, ther was no calf ysene.	And like a staff, with no calf to be seen.	Pulpe nici urmă—bețe, nu picioare.
593: Wel koude he kepe a gerner and a bynne;	Well could he manage granary and bin;	Se pricepea la grâu și la covată
594: Ther was noon auditour koude on him wynne.	No auditor could ever on him win.	Rar sămădău să-l biruie vreodată.

[74] **Logofătul**: vezi și autoportretul Logofătului în *Precuvântarea la Povestirea Logofătului*, pag. 76-77.

[75] **Cu păr tăiat** etc.: părul tăiat scurt era un semn al stării de servitute (Robinson).





595: Wel wiste he by the droghte and by the reyn	He could foretell, by drought and by the rain,	Și de ploua, și dacă nu ploua,
596: The yeldynge of his seed and of his greyn.	The yielding of his seed and of his grain.	Știa cât rod din țarini va lua.
597: His lordes sheep, his neet, his dayerye,	His lord's sheep and his oxen and his dairy,	Tot: vite, păsări, turme, cășăria,
598: His swyn, his hors, his stoor, and his pultrye	His swine and horses, all his stores, his poultry,	Porci, pâinea de pe lanuri, herghelia
599: Was hoolly in this reves governynge,	Were wholly in this steward's managing;	Erau de logofăt oblăduite,
600: And by his covenant yaf the rekenynge,	And, by agreement, he'd made reckoning	Și socoteli înfățișa cinstite
601: Syn that his lord was twenty yeer of age.	Since his young lord of age was twenty years;	Stăpânului, din tinerețea sa;
602: Ther koude no man brynge hym in arrerage.	Yet no man ever found him in arrears.	De nimeni întrecut nu se lăsa.
603: Ther nas baillif, ne hierde, nor oother hyne,	There was no agent, hind, or herd who'd cheat	N-a fost cioban sau slugă pe moșie
604: That he ne knew his sleighte and his	But he knew well his cunning and deceit;	A' cărui șoalde el să nu le știe.





covyne;		
605: They were adrad of hym as of the deeth.	They were afraid of him as of the death.	Ei se temeau de dânsul ca de ciumă.
606: His wonyng was ful faire upon an heeth;	His cottage was a good one, on a heath;	Pe un tăpșan avea conac, nu glumă,
607: With grene trees yshadwed was his place.	By green trees shaded with this dwelling-place.	Umbrit de pomi—și viețuia, vă spui,
608: He koude bettre than his lord purchace.	Much better than his lord could he purchase.	Mai în belșug decât stăpânul lui.
609: Ful riche he was astored pryvely:	Right rich he was in his own private right,	Strânsese-n taină bani frumoși deoparte.
610: His lord wel koude he plesen subtilly,	Seeing he'd pleased his lord, by day or night,	Cu-al său boier știa cum să se poarte,
611: To yeve and lene hym of his owene good,	By giving him, or lending, of his goods,	Împrumutându-l—tot din ce-i dosise—
612: And have a thank, and yet a cote and hood.	And so got thanked- but yet got coats and hoods.	Și cu dobândă grasă, pare-mi-se.
613: In youthe he hadde lerned a good myster;	In youth he'd learned a good trade, and had been	De tinerel deprinse meserie,

614: He was a wel good wrighte, a carpenter.	A carpenter, as fine as could be seen.	Fiind și meșter bun la tâmplărie.
615: This reve sat upon a ful good stot,	This steward sat a horse that well could trot,	Încăleca un cal frumos de tot,
616: That was al pomely grey and highte scot.	And was all dapple-grey, and was named Scot.	Un alt pestriț și sur, pe nume Scot.
617: A long surcote of pers upon he hade,	A long surcoat of blue did he parade,	Avea pe dânsul antereu civit
618: And by his syde he baar a rusty blade.	And at his side he bore a rusty blade.	Și, prins la șold, un paloș ruginit.
619: Of northfolk was this reve of which I telle,	Of Norfolk was this reeve of whom I tell,	Era de prin ținutul Northfolk el,
620: Biside a toun men clepen baldeswelle.	From near a town that men call Badeswell.	De lângă târgul care-i zic Baldeswell.
621: Tukked he was as is a frere aboute,	Bundled he was like friar from chin to croup,	Purta precum monahii gulerаș
622: And evere he rood the hyndreste of oure route.	And ever he rode hindmost of our troop.	Și veșnic rămânea de noi codaș.

The Summoner's Portrait	The Summoner	Aprodul
		
623: A somonour was ther with us in that place,	A summoner was with us in that place,	Era și un APROD[76] în acel loc,
624: That hadde a fyr-reed cherubynnes	Who had a fiery-red, cherubic face,	Cu chipul ca heruvii[77], roșu-foc,

[76] **Aprod** (în orig. *somnour)*: un fel de aprod la tribunalul eclesiastic. Avea sarcina de a-i aduce pe vinovați în fața judecății. Abuzurile practicate de acești aprozi sunt descrise în *Povestirea Fratelui Cerșetor*, pag. 279 și urm.

[77] **Cu chipul ca heruvii**: în arta medievală, heruvimii sunt de obicei zugrăviți cu fețe roșii ca para focului.

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face,		
625: For saucefleem he was, with eyen narwe.	For eczema he had; his eyes were narrow	Fiind de bube plin; ochi mici avea
626: As hoot he was and lecherous as a sparwe,	As hot he was, and lecherous, as a sparrow;	Și iubăreț ca vrabia era[78].
627: With scalled browes blake and piled berd.	With black and scabby brows and scanty beard;	Trei fire-n barbă, și-n sprânceni mătreață;
628: Of his visage children were aferd.	He had a face that little children feared.	Fugeau și plozii de-l vedeau la față.
629: Ther nas quyk-silver, lytarge, ne brymstoon,	There was no mercury, sulphur, or litharge,	Nu s-a aflat pucioasă, hidrargir,
630: Boras, ceruce, ne oille of tartre noon;	No borax, ceruse, tartar, could discharge,	Apă de plumb și nici un fel de ir
631: Ne oynement that wolde clense and byte,	Nor ointment that could cleanse enough, or bite,	Ori alifii de piei netezitoare
632: That hym myghte helpen of his whelkes white,	To free him of his boils and pimples white,	În stare de buboaie să-l dezbare

[78] **Iubăreț ca vrabia:** noțiunea de vrabie era asociată cu porniri erotice excesive (Robinson).

633: Nor of the knobbes sittynge on his chekes.	Nor of the bosses resting on his cheeks.	Și nici de negii lui de pe obraz.
634: Wel loved he garleek, oynons, and eek lekes,	Well loved he garlic, onions, aye and leeks,	Înfuleca la ceapă, ai și praz
635: And for to drynken strong wyn, reed as blood;	And drinking of strong wine as red as blood.	Și după vinul roș se da în vânt.
636: Thanne wolde he speke and crie as he were wood.	Then would he talk and shout as madman would.	Atunci grăia răcnind ca un bolând
637: And whan that he wel dronken hadde the wyn,	And when a deal of wine he'd poured within,	Și după ce se adăpa cu vin
638: Thanne wolde he speke no word but latyn.	Then would. he utter no word save Latin.	Nu mai vorbea decât în grai latin.
639: A fewe termes hadde he, two or thre,	Some phrases had he learned, say two or three,	Știa trei boabe-n limba latinească
640: That he had lerned out of som decree	Which he had garnered out of some decree;	Ciupite din vreo pravilă crăiască.
641: No wonder is, he herde it al the day;	No wonder, for he'd heard it all the day;	Nu-i de mirat, căci le-auzea mereu
642: And eek ye knowen wel how that a	And all you know right well that even a	Și bine știți cu toții că nu-i greu

jay	jay	
643: Kan clepen watte as wel as kan the pope.	Can call out “Wat” as well as can the pope.	Nici pentru gaițe să spună<tată>...
644: But whoso koude in oother thyng hym grope,	But when, for aught else, into him you’d grope,	Dar dacă omu-l scormonea, îndată
645: Thanne hadde he spent al his philosophie;	’Twas found he’d spent his whole philosophy;	Dădea de fund, glagoria-i seca
646: Ay questio quid iuris wolde he crie.	Just “Questio quid juris” would he cry.	Doar <*Questio quid juris*[79]> ne striga.
647: He was a gentil harlot and a kynde;	He was a noble rascal, and a kind;	Era băiat de treabă, un coțcar;
648: A bettre felawe sholde men noght fynde.	A better comrade ’twould be hard to find.	Ca el tovarăș bun găseai mai rar.
649: He wolde suffre for a quart of wyn	Why, he would suffer, for a quart of wine,	Cui îi plătea ocaua la beție
650: A good felawe to have his concubyn	Some good fellow to have his concubine	Îl învoia un an întreg să ție

[79] **<Questio quid juris>** (în limba latină, în orig.): formulă juridică obișnuită, care înseamnă: <Întrebarea este ce spune legea>.

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651: A twelf month, and excuse hym atte fulle;	A twelve-month, and excuse him to the full	Ibovnică și-l izbăvea pe loc,
652: Ful prively a fynch eek koude he pulle.	(Between ourselves, though, he could pluck a gull).	Ba însuși se-nfrupta dintr-un boboc.
653: And if he foond owher a good felawe,	And if he chanced upon a good fellow,	Când întâlnea un dezmățat de seamă,
654: He wolde techen him to have noon awe	He would instruct him never to have awe,	Atunci îl învăța să nu se teamă
655: In swich caas of the ercedekenes curs,	In such a case, of the archdeacon's curse,	De-anátema vlădicii, dacă insul
656: But if a mannes soule were in his purs;	Except a man's soul lie within his purse;	Nu se zgârcea la bani cu dinadinsul,
657: For in his purs he sholde ypunysshed be.	For in his purse the man should punished be.	Căci banul e osânda fiecui:
658: Purs is the ercedekenes helle, seyde he.	"The purse is the archdeacon's Hell," said he.	<Punga e iadul patriarhului>,
659: But wel I woot he lyed right in dede;	But well I know he lied in what he said;	Așa zicea. Dar el mințea, vezi bine:
660: Of cursyng oghte ech gilty man him drede,	A curse ought every guilty man to dread	De-afurisenii teamă-se oricine,

661: For curs wol slee right as assoillyng savith,	(For curse can kill, as absolution save),	Căci ne ucid, așa cum dezlegarea
662: And also war hym of a significavit.	And 'ware significavit to the grave.	Ne mântuie. Ferește din cărarea
663: In daunger hadde he at his owene gise	In his own power had he, and at ease,	Blestemului! Veghea cuminți să fie
664: The yonge girles of the diocise,	The boys and girls of all the diocese,	Și fetele și fetii-n parohie
665: And knew hir conseil, and was al hir reed.	And knew their secrets, and by counsel led.	Și sfetnic le era pe calea bună.
666: A gerland hadde he set upon his heed	A garland had he set upon his head,	Pe scăfârlie pusu-și-a cunună
667: As greet as it were for an ale-stake.	Large as a tavern's wine-bush on a stake;	Cât cele ce le vezi la vinărie[80]
668: A bokeleer hadde he maad hym of a cake.	A buckler had he made of bread they bake.	Și își făcuse scut dintr-o lipie.

[80] **cele... la vinărie**: firmele cârciumarilor erau adesea făcute din cercuri împodobite cu flori sau cu panglici.

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The Pardoner's Portrait

669: With hym ther rood a gentil pardoner

The Pardoner



With him there rode a gentle pardoner

Vânzătorul de iertăciuni

Umbla c-un VÂNZĂTOR DE IERTĂCIUNI[81]

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[81] **Vânzător de iertăciuni**: vânzător de indulgențe papale. Pentru întregirea caracterului personajului, vezi și autoportretul din *Precuvântarea la Povestirea Vânzătorului de Iertăciuni*, pag. 221 și urm.

670: Of rouncivale, his freend and his compeer,	Of Rouncival, his friend and his compeer;	Din Rouncival[82]; erau prieteni buni.
671: That streight was comen fro the court of rome.	Straight from the court of Rome had journeyed he.	Drept de la Roma dânsul se-ntorcea.
672: Ful loude he soong com hider, love, to me!	Loudly he sang "Come hither, love, to me,"	Cânta cu foc: <O, vină-mi, draga mea...>
673: This somonour bar to hym a stif burdoun;	The summoner joining with a burden round;	Aprodul îl urma pe glasul gros;
674: Was nevere trompe of half so greet a soun.	Was never horn of half so great a sound.	Nici buciumul nu sună mai vârtos.
675: This pardoner hadde heer as yelow as wex,	This pardoner had hair as yellow as wax,	Avea un păr ca mierea, gălbior,
676: But smothe it heeng as dooth a strike of flex;	But lank it hung as does a strike of flax;	Molatec precum inul din fuior;

[82] **Din Rouncival**: Rouncival era numele unui spital călugăresc. Vânzătorii de iertăciuni din Rouncival erau de obicei ironizați.

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677: By ounces henge his lokkes that he hadde,	In wisps hung down such locks as he'd on head,	Ciorchini cădeau bălaiele inele
678: And therwith he his shuldres overspradde;	And with them he his shoulders overspread;	Și umerii și-i coperea cu ele,
679: But thynne it lay, by colpons oon and oon.	But thin they dropped, and stringy, one by one.	Iar chica vițe-vițe... Ca să-i vie
680: But hood, for jolitee, wered he noon,	But as to hood, for sport of it, he'd none,	Mai lesne, nu purta nici pălărie
681: For it was trussed up in his walet.	Though it was packed in wallet all the while.	Ci o păstra în tolbă. Îi părea
682: Hym thoughte he rood al of the newe jet;	It seemed to him he went in latest style,	Că după moda nouă călărea.
683: Dischevelee, save his cappe, he rood al bare.	Dishevelled, save for cap, his head all bare.	Umbla, sub clop[83], cu pletele în vânt;
684: Swiche glarynge eyen hadde he as an hare.	As shiny eyes he had as has a hare.	Ochii lucioși ca de vătui îi sunt;

[83] **clop:** am dat acest echivalent pentru tichia rotundă pe care o poartă călugării și preoții catolici în creștetul capului.

685: A vernycle hadde he sowed upon his cappe.	He had a fine veronica sewed to cap.	Pe clop o <Veronică>[84] își cususe;
686: His walet lay biforn hym in his lappe,	His wallet lay before him in his lap,	Tăgârța plină cu iertări aduse
687: Bretful of pardoun, comen from rome al hoot.	Stuffed full of pardons brought from Rome all hot.	Din Rîm, fierbinți, în poale o ținea;
688: A voys he hadde as smal as hath a goot.	A voice he had that bleated like a goat.	Cu glas de țap, pițigăiat, vorbea.
689: No berd hadde he, ne nevere sholde have;	No beard had he, nor ever should he have,	Barbă nici fir—căci spân avea să fie—
690: As smothe it was as it were late shave.	For smooth his face as he'd just had a shave;	De parcă-atunci ieșea din bărbierie;
691: I trowe he were a geldyng or a mare.	I think he was a gelding or a mare.	Mi se părea că-i un jugan sau iapă.
692: But of his craft, fro berwyk into ware,	But in his craft, from Berwick unto Ware,	Dar om la meserie să priceapă
693: Ne was ther swich another pardoner	Was no such pardoner in any place.	Ca el, în toată Anglitera nu-i.

[84] **<Veronică>**: chipul lui Cristos așa cum s-a imprimat – potrivit legendei – pe năframa pe care i-a întins-o sfânta Veronica pe drumul calvarului.

694: For in his male he hadde a pilwe-beer,	For in his bag he had a pillowcase	Avea o cârpă în turbinca lui
695: Which that he seyde was oure lady veyl:	The which, he said, was Our True Lady's veil:	Și el zicea că-i vălul Precistei,
696: He seyde he hadde a gobet of the seyl	He said he had a piece of the very sail	Și cică mai păstra și un crâmpei
697: That seint peter hadde, whan that he wente	That good Saint Peter had, what time he went	De la vetrila lui Sânt Petru, care
698: Upon the see, til jhesu crist hym hente.	Upon the sea, till Jesus changed his bent.	O întindea când purcedea pe mare.
699: He hadde a croys of latoun ful of stones,	He had a latten cross set full of stones,	O cruce de alamă mai ducea
700: And in a glas he hadde pigges bones.	And in a bottle had he some pig's bones.	Și-ntr-un pahar oscioare de purcea.
701: But with thise relikes, whan that he fond	But with these relics, when he came upon	Dar când găsea vreun preot de la țară
702: A povre person dwellynge upon lond,	Some simple parson, then this paragon	Îi lua-ntr-o zi cât câștiga-ntr-o vară
703: Upon a day he gat hym moore moneye	In that one day more money stood to gain	Sărmanul popă galbeni și parale,

704: Than that the person gat in monthes tweye;	Than the poor dupe in two months could attain.	Cu moaștele acestea ale sale.
705: And thus, with feyned flaterye and japes,	And thus, with flattery and suchlike japes,	Și uite-așa, viclean între vicleni,
706: He made the person and the peple his apes.	He made the parson and the rest his apes.	Îi coțcărea pe popi și pe mireni.
707: But trewely to tellen atte laste,	But yet, to tell the whole truth at the last,	Dar, drept grăind și fără vorbărie,
708: He was in chirche a noble ecclesiaste.	He was, in church, a fine ecclesiast.	Slujea lângă altar cu vrednicie;
709: Wel koude he rede a lessoun or a storie,	Well could he read a lesson or a story,	Cetea în epistólii foarte bine
710: But alderbest he song an offertorie;	But best of all he sang an offertory;	Și-n leturghii isón știa a ține,
711: For wel he wiste, whan that song was songe,	For well he knew that when that song was sung,	Iar de voia să strângă mult bănet
712: He moste preche and wel affile his tonge	Then might he preach, and all with polished tongue.	Se pricepea cum că, după verset,
713: To wynne silver, as he ful wel koude;	To win some silver, as he right well could;	Și-o predică dibace se cerea;

714: Therefore he song the murierly and loude.	Therefore he sang so merrily and so loud.	De-aceea hăulea cât ce putea.
715: Now have I toold you soothly, in a clause,	Now have I told you briefly, in a clause,	Vă arătai la fugă, prin urmare,
716: Th' estaat, th' array, the nombre, and eek the cause	The state, the array, the number, and the cause	Câți sunt, ce chip și cin au fiecare,
717: Why that assembled was this compaignye	Of the assembling of this company	Și iarăși ce pricină i-a adus
718: In southwerk at this gentil hostelrye	In Southwark, at this noble hostelry	Pe toți la han, în Southwark, cum v-am spus,
719: That highte the tabard, faste by the belle.	Known as the Tabard Inn, hard by the Bell.	La hanul Tabard, cel de lângă Bell.
720: But now is tyme to yow for to telle	But now the time is come wherein to tell	Și-acum s-ar cere să vă-nșir nițel
721: How that we baren us that ilke nyght,	How all we bore ourselves that very night	Cam ce-am lucrat în noaptea când am mas
722: Whan we were in that hostelrie alyght;	When at the hostelry we did alight.	Acolo-n rateș de-am făcut popas,

723: And after wol I telle of our viage	And afterward the story I engage	Și iarăși vom mai spune ce făcum
724: And al the remenaunt of oure pilgrimage.	To tell you of our common pilgrimage.	Când am purces în hagialâc la drum.
725: But first I pray yow, of youre curteisye,	But first, I pray you, of your courtesy,	Dar mai întâi și-ntâi mă rog frumos
726: That ye n' arette it nat my vileynye,	You'll not ascribe it to vulgarity	Să nu mă credeți necuviincios
727: Thogh that I pleynly speke in this mateere,	Though I speak plainly of this matter here,	De vă voi zice verde și pe șleau
728: To telle yow hir wordes and hir cheere,	Retailing you their words and means of cheer;	Întocmai ce-au făcut și cum vorbeau,
729: Ne thogh I speke hir wordes proprely.	Nor though I use their very terms, nor lie.	Chiar de-au scăpat și vorbe de rușine.
730: For this ye knowen al so wel as I,	For this thing do you know as well as I:	Doar știți și dumneavoastră ca și mine
731: Whoso shal telle a tale after a man,	When one repeats a tale told by a man,	Că precupețul de povești se cade
732: He moot reherce as ny as evere he kan	He must report, as nearly as he can,	—De vrea să-și facă slujba cumsecade—

733: Everich a word, if it be in his charge,	Every least word, if he remember it,	Să nu-și preschimbe graiul nici ca cât,
734: Al speke he never so rudeliche and large,	However rude it be, or how unfit;	Măcar de-ar glăsui și mai urât.
735: Or ellis he moot telle his tale untrewe,	Or else he may be telling what's untrue,	Alminterea se face scornitor
736: Or feyne thyng, or fynde wordes newe.	Embellishing and fictionizing too.	De vorbe noi, și deci măsluitor.
737: He may nat spare, althogh he were his brother;	He may not spare, although it were his brother;	Dator e să le-nșiruie pe toate
738: He moot as wel seye o word as another.	He must as well say one word as another.	Aidoma; hatâr nici pentru frate.
739: Crist spak hymself ful brode in hooly writ,	Christ spoke right broadly out, in holy writ,	În Sfintele Scripturi chiar și Isus
740: And wel ye woot no vileynye is it.	And, you know well, there's nothing low in it.	Le-a spus pe șleau—și ce frumos le-a spus!
741: Eek plato seith, whoso that kan hym rede,	And Plato says, to those able to read:	Și Platon zice, cui îl înțelege,





742: The wordes moote be cosyn to the dede.	"The word should be the cousin to the deed."	Că vorba după faptă se alege.
743: Also I prey yow to foryeve it me,	Also, I pray that you'll forgive it me	Și iar vă cer iertare de nu-l pui
744: Al have I nat set folk in hir degree	If I have not set folk, in their degree	Pe fiecare după teapa lui
745: Heere in this tale, as that they sholde stonde.	Here in this tale, by rank as they should stand.	În basmul meu, la șir, cum se cuvine:
746: My wit is short, ye may wel understonde.	My wits are not the best, you'll understand.	Mi-i duhul nevoiaș, vedea-veți bine.
747: Greet chiere made oure hoost us everichon,	Great cheer our host gave to us, every one,	Ne-a-ntins hangiul masă-mbelșugată
748: And to the soper sette he us anon.	And to the supper set us all anon;	Și ne-a poftit la cină de îndată
749: He served us with vitaille at the beste;	And served us then with victuals of the best.	Și ne-a-mbuibat cu bunătăți din gros.
750: Strong was the wyn, and wel to drynke us leste.	Strong was the wine and pleasant to each guest.	Vârtos fu vinul și-l băum vârtos.
751: A semely man oure hooste was withalle	A seemly man our good host was, withal,	Era HANGIUL nost' halal hangiu,

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752: For to han been a marchal in an halle.	Fit to have been a marshal in some hall;	Călca a jitnicer și-a sorfagiu.
753: A large man he was with eyen stepe	He was a large man, with protruding eyes,	Ochios creștin și mare-n cherestea;
754: A fairer burgeys is ther noon in chepe	As fine a burgher as in Cheapside lies;	Mai chipeș ins în Cheapside[85] nu trăia:
755: Boold of his speche, and wys, and wel ytaught,	Bold in his speech, and wise, and right well taught,	Mintos și învățat, grăind semeț,
756: And of manhod hym lakkede right naught.	And as to manhood, lacking there in naught.	Și-mpodobit cu tot ce-i mai de preț
757: Eek therto he was right a myrie man,	Also, he was a very merry man,	La un bărbat. Ci, și glumeț din fire,
758: And after soper pleyen he bigan,	And after meat, at playing he began,	Cum am cinat, a prins a șuguire,
759: And spak of myrthe amonges othere thynges,	Speaking of mirth among some other things,	Dar gluma cea mai hâtră dintre toate
760: Whan that we hadde maad oure rekenynges,	When all of us had paid our reckonings;	Ne-a spus-o când plăteam pentru bucate.
761: And seyde thus: now, lordynges,	And saying thus: "Now masters, verily	<Cinstite fețe—zis-a—drept vă spun,

[85] **Cheapside**: stradă din Londra, locuită de marii negustori ai orașului.

trewely,		
762: Ye been to me right welcome, hertely;	You are all welcome here, and heartily:	Voios mi-s că v-aduse ceasul bun
763: For by my trouthe, if that I shal nat lye,	For by my truth, and telling you no lie,	Căci, mă și jur, minciuni să-nșir nu voi,
764: I saugh nat this yeer so myrie a compaignye	I have not seen, this year, a company	N-avui ăst an mai veseli soți ca voi
765: Atones in this herberwe as is now.	Here in this inn, fitter for sport than now.	Strânși laolaltă-n rateș ca acum.
766: Fayn wolde I doon yow myrthe, wiste I how.	Fain would I make you happy, knew I how.	V-aș bucura de m-aș pricepe cum;
767: And of a myrthe I am right now bythoght,	And of a game have I this moment thought	Ba iacă-mi vine-n minte una lată
768: To doon yow ese, and it shal coste noght.	To give you joy, and it shall cost you naught.	Ca să petreceți bine fără plată.
769: Ye goon to caunterbury -- God yow speede,	"You go to Canterbury; may God speed	Spre Canterbury Domnul vă-nsoțească
770: The blisful martir quite yow youre meede!	And the blest martyr soon requite your meed.	Iar mucenicul să vă răsplătească!





771: And wel I woot, as ye goon by the weye,	And well I know, as you go on your way,	Eu sunt încredințat că-n multa cale
772: Ye shapen yow to talen and to pleye;	You'll tell good tales and shape yourselves to play;	Aveți să stați de basme și taclale,
773: For trewely, confort ne myrthe is noon	For truly there's no mirth nor comfort, none,	Căci n-are haz – e limpede temeiul! –
774: To ride by the weye doumb as a stoon;	Riding the roads as dumb as is a stone;	Să călărești pe șleauri mut ca steiul.
775: And therfore wol I maken yow disport,	And therefore will I furnish you a sport,	Drept pentru ce voiesc să vă desfăt
776: As I seyde erst, and doon yow som confort.	As I just said, to give you some comfort.	Și-un drum spre voia bună să v-arăt.
777: And if yow liketh alle by oon assent	And if you like it, all, by one assent,	De veți cădea cu toții la-nvoială
778: For to stonden at my juggement,	And will be ruled by me, of my judgment,	Să ascultați asemenea tocmeală
779: And for to werken as I shal yow seye,	And will so do as I'll proceed to say,	Primind îndată zisa mea de-acum,
780: To-morwe, whan ye riden by the weye,	Tomorrow, when you ride upon your way,	Apăi chiar mâine, călărind pe drum,

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781: Now, by my fader soule that is deed,	Then, by my father's spirit, who is dead,	De nu veți fi voioși și desfătați
782: But ye be myrie, I wol yeve yow myn heed!	If you're not gay, I'll give you up my head.	Vă las, mă jur, și capul să-mi luați.
783: Hoold up youre hondes, withouten moore speche.	Hold up your hands, nor more about it speak."	Hai, bateți palma, fără vorbă lungă!>
784: Oure conseil was nat longe for to seche.	Our full assenting was not far to seek;	Nu șovăirăm vreme îndelungă
785: Us thoughte it was noght worth to make it wys,	We thought there was no reason to think twice,	Și ne-am legat, ce mai la deal, la vale,
786: And graunted hym withouten moore avys,	And granted him his way without advice,	Să facem toți pe vruta dumisale,
787: And bad him seye his voirdit as hym leste.	And bade him tell his verdict just and wise,	Rugându-l să ne spună ce urzise.
788: Lordynges, quod he, now herkneth for the beste;	"Masters," quoth he, "here now is my advice;	<Cinstite fețe, ascultați—ne zise.
789: But taak it nought, I prey yow, in desdeyn.	But take it not, I pray you, in disdain;	Să nu-mi luați cuvântul în dispreț:
790: This is the poynt, to speken short and	This is the point, to put it short and plain,	E vorba—ca să nu fiu vorbăreț—

pleyn,		
791: That ech of yow, to shorte with oure weye,	That each of you, beguiling the long day,	Să ne înșire fiecare nouă,
792: In this viage shal telle tales tweye	Shall tell two stories as you wend your way	Spre a scurta din drum, istorii două
793: To caunterbury-ward, I mene it so,	To Canterbury town; and each of you	La dus spre Canterbury, zic, și iar să
794: And homward he shal tellen othere two,	On coming home, shall tell another two,	Mai spună două-ncoa, la calea-ntoarsă,
795: Of aventures that whilom han bifalle.	All of adventures he has known befall.	Istorii despre pătăranii vechi;
796: And which of yow that bereth hym best of alle,	And he who plays his part the best of all,	Iar cel mai meșter la-ncântat urechi,
797: That is to seyn, that telleth in this caas	That is to say, who tells upon the road	Adică cel ce-n drumurile-aceste
798: Tales of best sentence and moost solaas,	Tales of best sense, in most amusing mode,	Va spune cea mai strașnică poveste,
799: Shal have a soper at oure aller cost	Shall have a supper at the others' cost	Pe banii obștii fi-va ospătat

800: Heere in this place, sittynge by this post,	Here in this room and sitting by this post,	Taman în jilțu-acesta-nscăunat
801: Whan that we come agayn fro caunterbury.	When we come back again from Canterbury.	De-ndat'ce hagialâcul vom sfârși.
802: And for to make yow the moore mury,	And now, the more to warrant you'll be merry,	Ba chiar, ca să petreceți și mai și,
803: I wol myselven goodly with yow ryde,	I will myself, and gladly, with you ride	Drept vesel călăuz, pe punga mea,
804: Right at myn owene cost, and be youre gyde,	At my own cost, and I will be your guide.	Eu însumi voi sălta cu voi în șa.
805: And whoso wole my juggement withseye	But whosoever shall my rule gainsay	Iar cel ce-mi va scorni tăgăduială,
806: Shal paye al that we spenden by the weye.	Shall pay for all that's bought along the way.	Plătească el obșteasca cheltuială.
807: And if ye vouche sauf that it be so,	And if you are agreed that it be so,	De vă-nvoiți să fie cum spusei,
808: Tel me anon, withouten wordes mo,	Tell me at once, or if not, tell me no,	Răspundeți iute-n două vorbe, trei,

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809: And I wol erly shape me therfore.	And I will act accordingly. No more."	Și-n zori, de mult, sunt gata de plecare!>
810: This thyng was graunted, and oure othes swore	This thing was granted, and our oaths we swore,	Ne-am prins și ne legarăm fiecare
811: With ful glad herte, and preyden hym also	With right glad hearts, and prayed of him, also,	Cu sufletul voios, și chiar rugându-l
812: That he wolde vouche sauf for to do so,	That he would take the office, nor forgo	Să facă-ntocmai cum îl duce gândul
813: And that he wolde been oure governour,	The place of governor of all of us,	Și să primească a ne fi cârmaci
814: And oure tales juge and reportour,	Judging our tales; and by his wisdom thus	Și jude-al povestașilor, dibaci;
815: And sette a soper at a certeyn pris,	Arrange that supper at a certain price,	Și praznicul tot el l-a prețuit,
816: And we wol reuled been at his devys	We to be ruled, each one, by his advice	Iar noi să-i fim supuși i-am juruit
817: In heigh and lough; and thus by oon assent	In things both great and small; by one assent,	În tot și pretutindeni; și-ntr-un glas
818: We been acorded to his juggement.	We stood committed to his government.	La voia sa cu toții am rămas.
819: And therupon the wyn was fet anon;	And thereupon, the wine was fetched	Drept care aldămașul l-am băut

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	anon;	
820: We dronken, and to reste wente echon,	We drank, and then to rest went every one,	Pe loc și ne-am vârât în așternut
821: Withouten any lenger taryynge.	And that without a longer tarrying.	Făr' să mai batem apa mult în piuă.
822: Amorwe, whan that day bigan to sprynge,	Next morning, when the day began to spring,	A doua zi, când se crăpa de ziuă,
823: Up roos oure hoost, and was oure aller cok,	Up rose our host, and acting as our cock,	Hangiul—fiindcă el ne fu cucoș–
824: And gradrede us togidre alle in a flok,	He gathered us together in a flock,	Ne-a adunat pe noi cei somnoroși
825: And forth we riden a litel moore than paas	And forth we rode, a jog-trot being the pace,	Și am pornit călare repejor
826: Unto the wateryng of seint thomas;	Until we reached Saint Thomas' watering-place.	Pân' la fântâna Tomii[86], la izvor.
827: And there oure hoost bigan his hors areste	And there our host pulled horse up to a walk,	Aici, strunindu-și calul, gazda noastră

[86] **Fântâna Tomii**: în apropiere de Londra, pe drumul care duce spre Canterbury, se afla un izvor unde pelerinii își adăpau caii.

828: And seyde, lordynges, herkneth, if yow leste.	And said: “Now, masters, listen while I talk.	Ne-a zis: <Ian ascultați domnia-voastră,
829: Ye woot youre foreward, and I it yow recorde.	You know what you agreed at set of sun.	Mai țineți minte cum ne-am învoit?
830: If even-song and morwe-song accorde,	If even-song and morning-song are one,	Atuncea, dacă nu v-ați răzgândit
831: Lat se now who shal telle the firste tale.	Let’s here decide who first shall tell a tale.	De azi pe mâine, hai să-ncepem joaca!
832: As evere mote I drynke wyn or ale,	And as I hope to drink more wine and ale,	Și jur să nu mai dau pe gât bărdaca
833: Whoso be rebel to my juggement	Whoso proves rebel to my government	De n-o plăti a obștii cheltuială
834: Shal paye for al that by the wey is spent.	Shall pay for all that by the way is spent.	Acel ce-mi va scorni tăgăduială.
835: Now draweth cut, er that we ferrer twynne;	Come now, draw cuts, before we farther win,	Să tragem sorții chiar aici pe loc:
836: He which that hath the shorteste shal bigynne.	And he that draws the shortest shall begin.	Scoți paiul scurt, tu intri-ntâi în joc.
837: Sire knyght, quod he, my mayster and my lord,	Sir knight,” said he, “my master and my lord,	Slăvite cavaler, poftim încoace

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838: Now draweth cut, for that is myn accord.	You shall draw first as you have pledged your word.	Să tragi la sorți, c-așa voiesc și-mi place;
839: Cometh neer, quod he, my lady prioresse.	Come near," quoth he, "my lady prioress:	Apropie-te, maică cuvioasă,
840: And ye, sire clerk, lat be youre shamefastnesse,	And you, sir clerk, put by your bashfulness,	Și dumneata, diacule, mai lasă
841: Ne studieth noght; ley hond to, every man!	Nor ponder more; out hands, flow, every man!"	Sfielile; hai, puneți mâna toți!>
842: Anon to drawen every wight bigan,	At once to draw a cut each one began,	Îndată ne-am pornit a trage sorți
843: And shortly for to tellen as it was,	And, to make short the matter, as it was,	Și—scurt povestea—iaca s-a brodit
844: Were it by aventure, or sort, or cas,	Whether by chance or whatsoever cause,	Să fie cavalerul cel iubit
845: The sothe is this, the cut fil to the knyght,	The truth is, that the cut fell to the knight,	De sorți, de steaua lui, sau de-ntâmplare;
846: Of which ful blithe and glad was every wyght,	At which right happy then was every wight.	Drept care toți se bucurară tare,
847: And telle he moste his tale, as was resoun,	Thus that his story first of all he'd tell,	Iar el urma povestea să-și deșire
848: By foreward and by composicioun,	According to the compact, it befell,	Așa cum se legase la pornire
849: As ye han herd; what nedeth wordes	As you have heard. Why argue to and fro?	—Cum bine știți—ce s-o lățesc degeaba...

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mo?		
850: And whan this goode man saugh that it was so,	And when this good man saw that it was so,	Și când văzu creștinul cum stă treaba
851: As he that wys was and obedient	Being a wise man and obedient	S-a-nduplecat ca omul cel cuminte
852: To kepe his foreward by his free assent,	To plighted word, given by free assent,	Să-și țină vorba dată înainte,
853: He seyde, syn I shal bigynne the game,	He slid: “Since I must then begin the game,	Și zice: <Dacă’s vrednic de saftea,
854: What, welcome be the cut, a goddes name!	Why, welcome be the cut, and in God’s name!	Să fie-ntr-un ceas bun, pe legea mea!
855: Now lat us ryde, and herkneth what I seye.	Now let us ride, and hearken what I say.”	Hai, sus în șei și luați aminte-ncoace.>
856: And with that word we ryden forth oure weye,	And at that word we rode forth on our way;	Și iarăși ne-am urnit la drum în pace,
857: And he bigan with right a myrie cheere	And he began to speak, with right good cheer,	Iar el a prins cu fața zâmbitoare
858: His tale anon, and seyde as ye may heere.	His tale anon, as it is written here.	A depăna povestea următoare.

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Here ends the Prologue of this book and here begins the first tale, which is the Knight's Tale.

Aici s-a mântuit precuvântarea acestei cărți; și de-aici se-ncepe cea dintâi istorisire, care este Povestirea Cavalerului.

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40 languages
used by James Joyce
in writing *Finnegans Wake*

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